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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Instead of awarding it to Integrated Professional Solutions, should the government have had opened the outsourcing of the CNMI's ARRA Office to a bid?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Cultural Center
Each of the three major islands in the CNMI will soon have a traveling cultural center.

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Sustainable Pace
China's rapid growth slowed in the latest quarter as Beijing steered its expansion to a more sustainable level.

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'Coco Cam'
Conan O'Brien is building the hype for his upcoming TBS talk show with the debut of a 24-hour "Coco Cam" online.

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Early voting begins today; DPS to keep ballot boxes until tabulation. PAGE 2
Senators adopt resolution keeping Reyes as LB director. PAGE 3

MAI is one of 2 firms that vied for $254K desk audit contract

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan-based KIS Communications and the Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. were the only entities that responded to a request for proposals to conduct an organizational review of the CNMI in July 2009.

Due to funding constraints, the desk audit was later limited to the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Finance. Later on, Finance was replaced by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The Fitial administration awarded in March 2010 a contract to MAI worth $254,459.12—and not $300,000 or $360,000—after the firm was evaluated the highest-ranking bidder.

These figures are based on a copy of the contract awarded to MAI and other government documents related to the desk audit.

The four-member evaluation team included former press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., former acting personnel director Francisco S. Ada Jr., former personnel training director Dr. Peter C. Eche, and Marie T. Muna.

MAI president Arthur L. Smith, in responding to news articles about the desk audit procurement process, said MAI received and responded in 2009 to a competitively-bid request for proposal which the CNMI government publicly announced.

In the same Oct. 20 letter, Smith said Lynn Knight, a former CNMI resident and was also a *Saipan Tribune* publisher

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16-hour cuts to exclude doctors, police officers 'at this time'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government employees will start receiving a memo today on the implementation of the 16-hour work cut per pay period which the Fitial administration said yesterday will exempt critical service personnel "at this time."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said these critical service personnel include police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, juvenile deten-

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Senate overrides governor's line-item veto

» **House members have differing views; Fitial admin wants lawmakers to work with MVA**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate succeeded yesterday in overriding Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's line-item veto of a $360,000 subsidy for Rota and Tinian charter flights and tourism promotion, but there's no telling yet whether House members will follow suit.

On an 8-0 vote, the Senate overrode the governor's line-item veto of Public Law 17-21, or the $132 million budget law for Fiscal Year 2011.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the governor, in his approval message of the budget law, had offered sound recommendations regarding initiating precedence to subsidize charter flights.

"We had hoped that the legislators would have heeded the suggestion to instead work collaboratively with (the Marianas Visitors Authority) to enhance and promote the Northern Mariana Is-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), right, addresses his colleagues during yesterday afternoon's Senate session wherein senators overrode Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's line-item veto of the budget law. Also in photo are Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), above, Senate clerk Doris Bermudes and Senate legal counsel Matt Meyer.

Local

Early voting begins today; DPS to keep ballot boxes until tabulation

The Commonwealth Election Commission is all set for today's start of the 10-day early voting process on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero, who was on Rota yesterday noon, assured that all ballots that will be cast will be under the responsibility of the Department of Public Safety for Tinian and Rota, while the Department of Corrections will handle the security of Saipan ballot boxes.

Guerrero pointed out that sealed ballot boxes would only be opened during the commission's tabulation of ballots on the evening of Nov. 2.

The election commission chief is expected on Tinian early morning today to monitor the same process on the island.

For each island, the election commission deployed one poll worker for the early voting process to be assisted by a police officer.

The board of election commission certified three polling places for the early voting process: Rota DPS in Songsong Village; Tinian DPS in San Jose; and the election commission office in Susupe.

Pursuant to Public Law 17-11, the early voting period will end on Nov. 1 and all polling sites will open at 8am through 4pm each day inclusive of weekends.

Guerrero revealed that the 600 ballots—200 each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—are part of the 18,000 ballots that were printed for the entire congressional election next month.

There are four candidates in this year's congressional election—the Republican Party's Juan N. Babauta, the Covenant Party's Joseph Camacho, the Democratic Party's Jesus Borja, and independent and incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Parolee nabbed again for alleged rape of minor ex-GF

A parolee who was convicted two years ago for sexually abusing a minor girl, was arrested again on Wednesday afternoon in Susupe for allegedly forcing another minor girl to drink alcoholic beverages and raping her.

Benson John Dela Cruz, 24, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for his initial court appearance on charges of sexual assault in the first degree and assault and battery.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona raised the defendant's cash bail to $50,000 cash from the $25,000 that associate judge Perry B. Inos had earlier imposed.

Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 28 at 9am.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a police officer received about a rape complaint at a high school on Tuesday morning.

Manacop said according to the victim, Dela Cruz and a certain Jay picked her up past midnight last Saturday, Oct. 16.

The two brought the victim to the back of the Fire Station in Garapan. Dela Cruz then bought liquor and a can of soda. As they later proceeded to Capital Hill, the suspect forced the victim to drink liquor.

It was on a farm area by the Old People's Park, where Dela Cruz allegedly raped the victim.

See PAROLEE on Next Page

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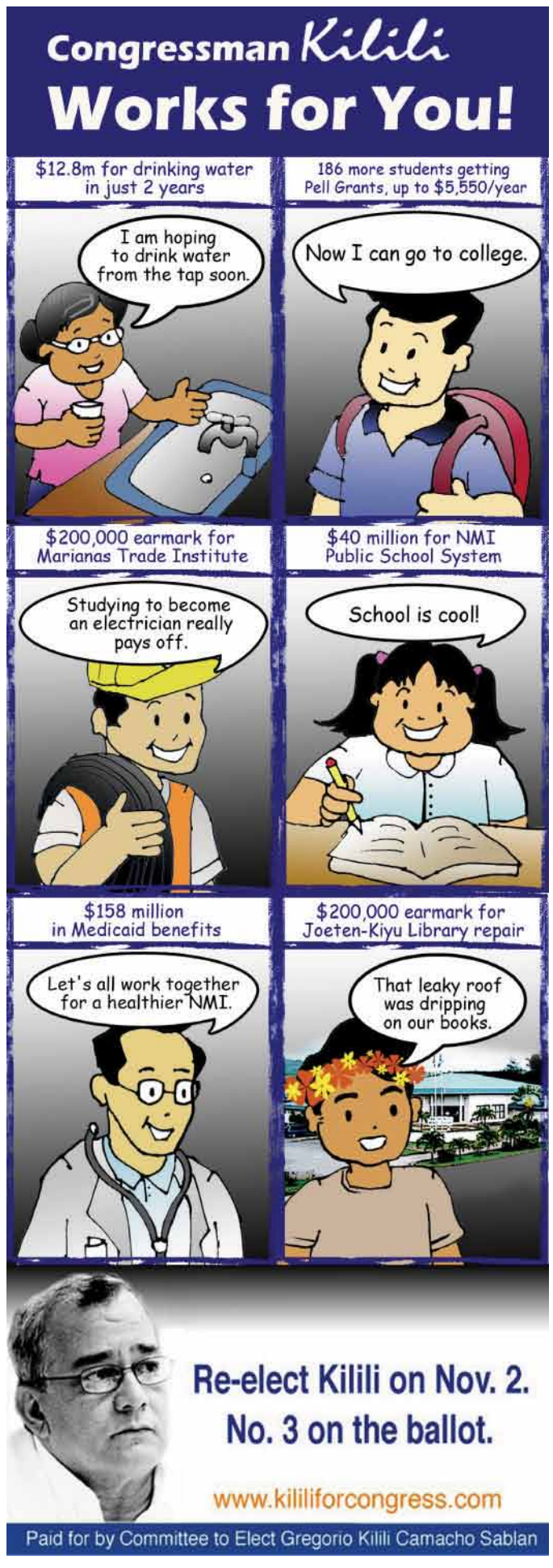
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Senators adopt resolution keeping Reyes as LB director

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators adopted a resolution yesterday maintaining the appointment of Glenna SP Reyes as Legislative Bureau director, three days after House Speaker Froilan Tenorio asked Reyes to vacate her office because her contract was not renewed on Oct. 1 and she's therefore no longer employed as director.

Tenorio and eight other House members appointed former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan to become the next bureau director but such appointment letter has yet to reach the Senate.

Senate Resolution 17-27 passed on a 6-0 vote with two abstentions and one absence yesterday afternoon.

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), husband of the bureau director, abstained from voting, along with Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan). Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) was off-island.

"It is the Senate's position that, irrespective of any contract, Director Glenna SP Reyes continues to be director of the Legislative Bureau until such time that a majority of the members of the House and a majority of the members of the Senate vote to remove her as required by the constitution," the resolution states.

Kiana Palacios, daughter of Glenna Reyes, spoke before senators during the session, thanking them for their support to her mother.

The senators, in adopting SR 17-27, said the Senate is unaware that the House speaker "can unilaterally remove the director" of the bureau.

They said this does not comply with Article II, Section 17(d) of the CNMI Constitution, which provides that the director may be removed by a majority of the members of each house of the Legislature with or without cause.

The senators said the House speaker needs a majority of the House members to recommend removal of the bureau director, "and his letter dated Oct. 18, 2010 to director Reyes is short of the majority required by the Constitution."

The Senate also said since Glenna Reyes's appointment, the legislative facilities and equipment have improved, and the Senate is "satisfied with the services" of the director and "wishes to continue her services as the director of the Legislative Bureau."

During the session, Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) cited an independent legal opinion stating that Glenna Reyes continues to be the duly appointed LB director unless and until she's removed by a majority vote from each chamber of the Legislature.

"I hope this situation with the LB director can be behind us now. This is an independent legal opinion that says Reyes is still the LB director. If the speaker believes otherwise, he can call us and sit down with us… That's how we resolve our differences. However, the speaker continues to move unilaterally… In this economic crisis we're facing, people out there are sick and tired of us… fed up with us. I hope we can move beyond this conflict so we can (focus) on our budget challenges," Manglona said.

The House speaker said Reyes' contract expired on Oct. 1, citing the contract provision itself.

"This contract shall automatically renew on Oct. 1, 2010 without any further action being taken by employer or employee, provided funds are obligated for the position by the passage of a budget or by continuing resolution for the Fiscal Year beginning Oct. 1, 2010, for the period covered by Fiscal Year 2011," Glenna Reyes's contract says.

No budget was passed on Oct. 1, 2010 because of the House and Senate impasse on provisions of the budget bills introduced. The budget deadlock resulted in a partial government shutdown.

It was the second time that Tenorio asked Reyes to vacate her office; the first one was right after the 17th Legislature was sworn into office in January.

PAROLEE

From Page 2

Jay apparently did not touch the girl.

Dela Cruz then dropped off the girl back home at 5am.

Manacop said during an interview with Detective Melissa Bauleong on Wednesday, the victim claimed she did not report the matter immediately because Dela Cruz threatened to harm her.

The girl admitted that Dela Cruz used to be her boyfriend. She said they remained friends after she broke up with him when her mother found out about the relationship in October 2009.

Manacop said that on Feb. 20, 2008, Dela Cruz pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and was sentenced to a six years in prison, all suspended except for four years.

Dela Cruz was granted parole on Sept. 16, 2009. With his conviction he is a registered sex offender. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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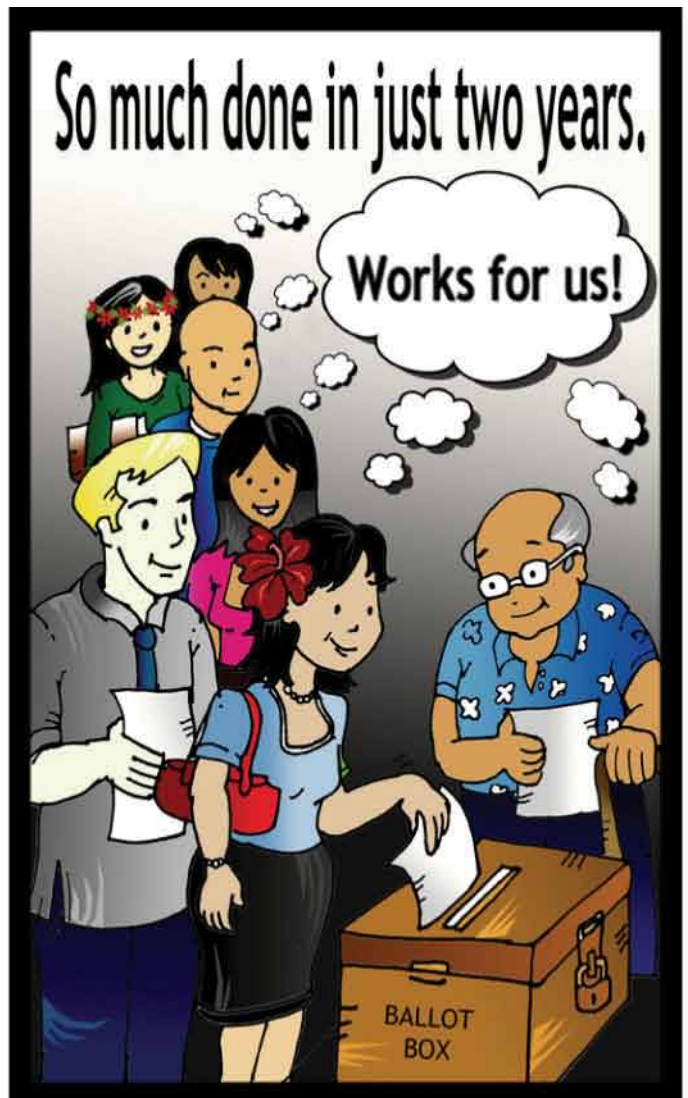

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ON INSTALLATION OF METERS, BILLINGS PROGRAM

CUC says it's on target for Jan. 31, 2011 deadline

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has claimed that it is on target with the Jan. 31, 2011 deadline with the requirements to install meters and billing of all of its customers based on consumption.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, however, expressed doubt that CUC will meet the deadline to comply such requirements as set forth in the second joint stipulation entered by EPA and CUC.

The first and second stipulated orders were intended to resolve long-standing deficiencies relating to CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems, and oil storage, transportation, and disposal program.

In CUC's 60-day status report recently submitted in federal court, the utilities agency's counsel, Deborah E. Fisher, said CUC believes that its progress in increasing the number of customers being metered and billed by consumption places the agency on truck for completing all customers by the Jan. 31, 2011 deadline.

Fisher said they have acquired four rental van vehicles to support meter installation crews, and purchased four metal detectors to assist crews in locating meter boxes.

She said CUC has been meeting every week to work toward resolution of meter issues, which are "complex and difficult."

The counsel said CUC has made significant progress from Aug. 18, 2010 to the present by reducing the number of customers not being billed based on consumption from 4,490 to 3,462, which is a gain of 1,028 customers now being billed based on consumption.

Fisher said the emphasis during the month of September and continuing into October has been commercial accounts.

She said during the past month, CUC began servicing precision meters that are stored in the CUC warehouse.

"The intent of this servicing was to use precision meters in the non-24 hour areas in anticipation of a meter shortfall," she said.

Fisher said 2,000 (consignment) water meters are expected to arrive on Nov. 15, 2010.

She said the consignment water meters are being provided as an advance in anticipation of future water meter failures, and are available for use based on any meter shortfall experienced by CUC in the installation of water meters.

"CUC has enough water meters to continue the water change-out until approximately Dec. 1, 2010, so CUC does not presently anticipate any shortfall of meters," Fisher added.

Attorney Bradley R. O'Brien in the U.S. government's own 60-day report also filed in federal court, said CUC submitted to EPA on Sept. 3, 2010 a report on its "water meter installation, reading, and billing program."

O'Brien said the report states that CUC goals are to change out all meters for commercial and government customers by Sept. 15, 2010, and to complete 150 meter change outs per week between Sept. 3, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010 for metered customers.

With respect to unmetered customers, the other CUC goal is to investigate all accounts and complete all necessary change outs (up to 80 per week) by Jan. 31, 2011.

"However, CUC's report does not provide information on whether CUC is actually performing the work and achieving those goals," O'Brien said.

He said EPA is concerned that CUC will not achieve compliance with the requirements for installing meters and billing of customers based on consumption no later than Jan. 31, 2011.

16-HOUR

From Page 1

tion officers, nurses and doctors.

The work hour cuts in the Executive Branch will take effect on Sunday, Oct. 24, pursuant to Public Law 17-21 or the budget law for Fiscal Year 2011.

"However, critical personnel will not be affected at this time," Demapan said.

The Fitial administration earlier said critical service positions may also receive 16-hour cuts per pay period because the new budget law does not specifically exempt them from the cuts. Lawmakers said it would be to the public's benefit if critical service positions are not included in the list of those who will receive work and pay cuts.

But as of yesterday, there's no telling whether employees at the Public School System and Northern Marianas College will also be spared from the 16-hour cut. The budget law does not specifically exempt them from the work hour reduction.

Because of the work hour cuts, most employees will now be working for only 64 hours per two weeks, from the regular 80 hours per pay period.

Besides the 16-hour cuts, employees will also be subjected to 13 unpaid holidays to help cap government spending at $132 million, although Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said the projected revenue available for government operation may soon be reduced by some $10 million.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday that the Legislature's appropriation has already been cut, and further cuts will have to depend on each lawmaker.

Demapan said PL 17-21 gives the Legislature and the Judiciary's expenditure authority oversight "as to how they will implement their expenditure plan to stay within their budgetary limits."

This is not the first time this year that the Executive Branch will cut the work hours of many of its employees. For several months now, excepted service, contract employees, and appointed officials in the Executive Branch has been receiving 10-hour cuts per pay period.

"We're told we'll receive additional six hours cut, for total of 16 hours. But between losing my job and getting 16 hours cut, I will choose the work cuts. It's hard to find a job these days," one Executive Branch employee on Capital Hill said yesterday.

Tropical disturbance no significant impact to Marianas

The tropical disturbance yesterday moved west of the Marianas islands and brought isolated showers on the islands.

The National Weather Service based in Guam said all the weather and winds have moved west and are no longer expected to significantly impact the Marianas.

As of 11am yesterday, the center of the tropical disturbance was 230 miles northwest of Saipan and 270 miles northwest of Guam.

NWS said packing 10 to 15 miles per hour of winds, the movement was toward the west at 10 miles per hour.

The Emergency Management Office said the disturbance is still in the initial stages of formation.

EMO said, however, NMI residents should monitor the progress of the disturbance throughout Thursday night.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial advised the public and motorists to drive carefully due to possibility of waters building up in low-lying areas. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SENATE

From Page 1

lands—all of them—as one paradise destination. Unfortunately, the members of the Senate have chosen otherwise and have instead voted to override the governor's line-item veto," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said it's sad the governor line-item vetoed this provision when the CNMI is trying to promote tourism of three islands.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) expressed concern that the $360,000 could just be reprogrammed.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) said he would like to have funds specifically appropriated to help Rota and Tinian, too.

"Love keeps our islands together…I hope the governor will consider that," he said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said he will write a letter to the Marianas Visitors Authority asking them not to use the money because it's only identified but not appropriated.

The press secretary said the override will now have to garner enough votes in the House to effectuate the override.

"We hope that the House members will act in favor of the administration's recommendations and shift focus toward the legislative efforts to pass revenue generating measures that would benefit the Commonwealth as a whole and not just select charter flight companies for the other municipalities," he said.

House members asked for comments yesterday have differing views should a motion to override the governor's line-item veto is made during their next session.

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said there's no way the House leadership will approve of any override.

But Manglona said "it's worth the try."

He said the House overwhelmingly voted in favor of the budget bill that contained this provision on subsidizing charter flights and tourism projects on Rota and Tinian.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said the vetoed item signals the CNMI government's commitment to the tourism industry.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) separately said they have yet to decide on the issue.

"It depends on the motion. I'd need to see what is being considered to override," Deleon Guerrero said.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said his vote will be "no" to the override should the question be placed before the House.

"The Rota chartered flight is the debt of the Rota delegation and not of the entire CNMI. MVA shall be tasked to invest for the CNMI as a whole, for the benefit of every citizen and resident of the Commonwealth. We cannot utilize CNMI funding for the benefit of a specific senatorial district inclusive of the Third Senatorial District," Camacho said.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said he will have to check first the Senate's action and talk to the Tinian senators.

"I would probably vote for it for the benefit of Tinian," he said.

The provision that the Senate inserted into the contentious budget measure, which the House also reinserted in the fifth budget bill, would make sure that $360,000 of the "all others" appropriation of MVA will go into subsidizing Rota and Tinian charter flights and pay for outstanding obligations to travel partners.

Of the total amount, $120,000 will subsidize the charter flights from Japan to Rota; $120,000 to promote and market Tinian as a tourist destination; and $120,000 to pay the outstanding KNT account for completed charter flights from Japan to Rota.

MAI

From Page 1

in 2008, joined MAI in 2009.

Smith said Knight "did not participate in writing the desk audit proposal, was not a member of the desk audit team, and did not participate in these studies, because this is not her area of focus."

Smith also said that Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, a registered agent in the CNMI for MAI, was selected as MAI agent after they considered several local candidates.

"His association with MAI is as an individual and his employment with Tan Holdings had no bearing on our decision. With all due respect to Tan Holdings, there is no connection between MAI and that firm," Smith said.

MAI's proposal as of January 2010 was over $1.217 million at 2,500 full-time employees of the CNMI government. This was equal to $487 per FTE for the entire organizational review pursuant to RFP09-OPM-099.

Ada, in a Jan. 20 letter to MAI president Arthur L. Smith, sought MAI's submission of a fee proposal only for DPS and Finance with total FTEs of 391.

The desk audit contract was for 180 days from the notice to proceed, or not later than Sept. 30, 2010.

In February, special assistant for management and budget Vicky Villagomez wrote to MAI, substituting Finance with DCCA and asked MAI to submit a fee proposal for this substitution.

The following month, the Fitial administration awarded a contract to MAI for $254,459.12, which was part of the $360,000 Office of Insular Affairs grant that the CNMI received, press secretary Angel Demapan said when asked for confirmation.

"The $360,000 was how much OIA made available to the CNMI. Thus, the CNMI did not obligate the entire $360,000," he said.

MAI submitted the desk audit report for DCCA and DPS to the Fitial administration early this month.

The report said certain units at DPS and DCCA are overstaffed, and have unjustifiable and overlapping functions.

Demapan said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos are still reviewing the report.

"Once their review is complete, the administration will begin planning the necessary steps that would follow," he said.

Demapan earlier said the "recommendations of the audit review team are not binding decisions at this time," but lawmakers called on the Fitial administration to heed the contractor's recommendations.

MAI has a long list of recommendations to improve the efficiency, delivery of services, meet all local and federal laws and regulations, and produce cost savings at DPS and DCCA.

There's no telling which agencies will be audited next.

"The first hurdle is to seek funding to expand the desk audit to other agencies," Demapan added.

Lawmakers said had a desk audit been performed on all agencies, it will reveal that most agencies of the CNMI government are overstaffed.

438 SHEFA checks could be out next week

» Ogumoro extends stay on SHEFA board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Students can soon heave a sigh of relief as at least 438 Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance checks could be out next week, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday based on information from the Treasury Division.

Ogumoro and SHEFA consultant Bill Torres said these SHEFA checks scheduled for release include 384 for students enrolled on-island and 54 for students enrolled off-island.

This shows that SHEFA had already released weeks ago the first batches of checks for students enrolled in schools outside the CNMI, Torres said.

Ogumoro talked about the release of SHEFA checks during an interview yesterday with reporters, announcing a 30-day extension of her stay as a member of the SHEFA board of directors.

From Oct. 1, her resignation is moved to Oct. 30, 2010.

She said had she stepped down on Oct. 1 as she originally planned, the five-member SHEFA board would not have a quorum because there would only be two members left.

Ogumoro, who has been the chair of the SHEFA board since 2004, said without a quorum, the board won't be able to make formal decisions and actions that will affect hundreds of students relying on SHEFA.

She said she's hoping Saipan Mayor Donald Flores's nomination of Jose Mafnas will be acted on today by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) so that when she steps down on Oct. 30, there will still be a quorum.

Torres and Ogumoro cited two resolutions that the board passed on Oct. 15, confirming that there are only three valid members of the current board—Ogumoro, Juan K. Tenorio, and Jose C. Leon Guerrero.

Ogumoro and Torres said the SNILD's confirmation of Magdalena C. Camacho and Josephine T. Sablan's appointment as SHEFA board members was "flawed" from the start and they are therefore not valid members of the board.

They said the mayor submitted the names of Camacho and Sablan to Saipan lawmakers on Jan. 6, 2009 and the delegation had 90 days or until April 6, 2009 to act on the appointments.

"But the Saipan Delegation acted on the appointments on May 21, 2009, or 45 days past the 90 days set by law," Torres said.

Ogumoro said the SHEFA board didn't have any issue with the nomination of Camacho and Sablan until they brought up the issue of tenure during a March 2010 board meeting.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), chair of the Saipan delegation, said he has yet to see documents to support the nomination of Mafnas. But he said if these documents are ready before the delegation session today, the better, so that the delegation can act on the nomination.

On the issue of SHEFA board membership, Tebuteb said as he observes it, "there seems to be personality conflict" among board members.

CNMI Scholarship checks

In related news, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) wrote another letter to Finance Secretary Bob Schrack on Wednesday, inquiring about the cause of delay in releasing CNMI Scholarship checks to students.

"As you know, the school year is well underway, and I continue to receive reports of students without the checks they were promised. While no employee can do without a paycheck, it is even more difficult for these students," Cruz told Schrack.

He said as of yesterday, he has yet to receive a response from the Finance secretary.

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CPA eyes revision of procurement, personnel regs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will revise its existing procurement and personnel regulations to come up with a unified bylaw that would cover both local and federal requirements.

"In about 90 days, we will come up with a new proposal that would change our procurement and personnel standard working procedures to include every aspect of operations of CPA," said CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

He disclosed that under the proposal, old positions will be revised to reflect all areas in the agency's operations.

"For procurement, we are incorporating the federal and local requirements to one regulation so we could address issues about local and federal requirements," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the board already initially approved the proposed revision of regulations.

The executive director said the board also approved the renewal of three key positions at the ports authority on the same terms and conditions.

These include Saipan airport manager Edward B. Mendiola, seaport manager Maryann Q. Lizama, and staff attorney Jose A. Bermudes.

Saipan Tribune learned that both Mendiola and Lizama were approved one-year employment contracts that expire on Oct. 26, 2011 with $55,000 annual compensation. Bermudes, meantime, was approved a $70,000 annual pay that expires on Nov. 9, 2011.

CPA also approved a new contract for Joseph M. Mendiola, who was hired as the Tinian ports manager, a position vacated by Ike Perez early this year.

'Change orders OKd'

The board also approved a change order in the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport runway rehabilitation project to reflect the needed $4,000 survey that was concurrently approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

For the port of Saipan generator project, the board also approved the 30-day extension recommended by the executive director as a result of the inclement weather. The change order did not bear additional cost to the project.

The repair of the cracks and holes at the Saipan airport's taxiway was also approved amounting to over $14,000. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the said work is currently outside the contractor's contract scope and that its funding is provided by the FAA.

Ex-convict gets two years in jail for sexual abuse

»One more serious offense is pending in court

The Superior Court has imposed a two-year jail sentence on an ex-convict who sexually abused two minor girls.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Steven Romie Aguon to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years, for one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Manglona said the two years must be served in entirety without the possibility of parole.

Aguon was given credit for the time he already served in jail since March 5, 2010.

"Under no circumstances, other than a pardon or commutation, shall defendant be released early," the judge said.

After completing the jail term, Aguon will be placed on five years of probation and required to perform 240 hours of community work.

Manglona ordered the defendant to pay a $200 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus an annual probation service fee to be assessed by the Office of Adult Probation.

Aguon was required to register as a sex offender and comply with all CNMI sex offender registration provisions or standards.

Aguon and counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed a plea agreement with assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing.

The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree as charged in count 3 of the information. In return, the government moved to dismiss count two of the information.

Hardwicke acknowledged that pursuant to defendant's motion and court's order, sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, has been severed from two other counts.

It means that sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree is still pending and will be set for a jury trial at a later date.

Manglona said in this one criminal action, Aguon was charged with committing two serious criminal offenses against two different victims on two separate occasions.

Manglona said sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, the more serious of the offenses, allegedly occurred sometime in the year 2009, and remains for a disposition.

The two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, allegedly occurred on Feb. 20, 2010, and were scheduled for a jury trial on Oct. 15, 2010.

Rather than exercising his right to trial, Aguon has accepted responsibility for his wrongful acts in the latter incident.

Manglona said Aguon admitted to touching the minor victim's body parts through her clothing while the victim's father was away at work.

The judge said the prosecution represented that this disposition was in due consideration of the victim's situation and wishes, among other factors. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Nonresident workers group to launch signature drive for improved status

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Workers Movement-NMI plans to start a signature campaign urging U.S. President Obama to grant improved immigration status for guest workers in the CNMI.

"We are asking President Barack Obama to use his capacity and grant CNMI guest workers with a status that will allow us to work in any part of the United States," said UWM-NMI president Rabby Syed.

Syed said that through the signature campaign, they will appeal to Obama to show support for the Department of Interior's recommendations to U.S. Congress.

He said it also asks U.S. Congress to act quickly on the Interior's recommendations.

The Interior submitted to Congress in May a report recommending that thousands of alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years be allowed to apply for long-term status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

These include conferring outright U.S. citizenship on these long-term aliens by an act of Congress, or granting them permanent residency status leading to U.S. citizenship, among examples of improved immigration statuses.

Syed told *Saipan Tribune* that as president, Obama has the authority to grant improved immigration status for guest workers in the CNMI without going through U.S. Congress.

"CNMI has a very unique situation. We were already before the federal government took over immigration," he said, adding that the guest workers came to the islands through legal means.

Syed noted that guest workers are "not like the illegal aliens in other parts of the U.S. who crossed the border illegally."

"They should look into the situation of CNMI guest workers in a different perspective," he added.

Syed said the signature campaign, which will be launched on Nov. 9, will coincide with a prayer vigil sponsored by UWM-NMI.

The petition signing and prayer vigil will start at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

Syed said the signature campaign will conclude on Dec. 9.

According to Syed, the idea for the signature campaign is to reach out to the 16,000 workers who are among those that were recommended by the Interior to have improved status.

Syed also expressed concern that the expiration date for guest workers' umbrella permits is fast approaching but the final rules and regulations for the guest workers have yet to be made by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Umbrella permits issued by the local government to guest workers expire on November 2011. "Our time is running out," he added.

If guest workers are granted improved status, Syed said these workers can be utilized in line with the military buildup in Guam which will need a significant number of labor force.

Syed said the group will also send the petition campaign to new members of Congress who will be elected to position next month.

He said there will be a planning meeting with all guest workers' group leaders and interested members for the upcoming prayer vigil and signature campaign launch.

The meeting will be held this Saturday, Oct. 23, also at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

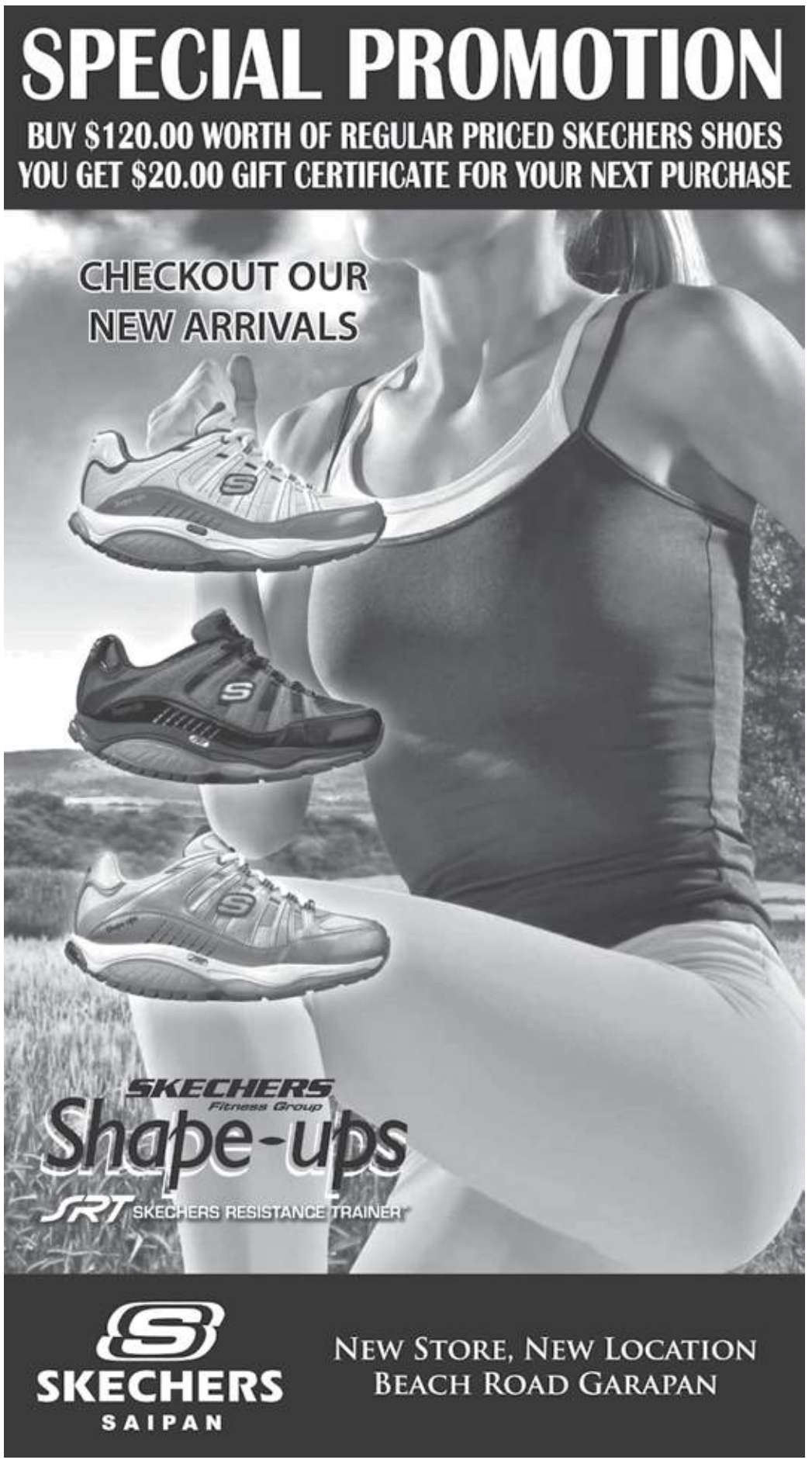
For more information, contact Syed at 888-4025 or email him at rabbysyed@yahoo.com or Ronnie Doca at 235-1965.

Man pleads guilty to sexual abuse of 5-year-old girl

Twenty-one-year old Wendell Dimot Dipus pleaded guilty to a single count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The factual basis for the plea indicated that Dipus kissed a 5-year-old and touched her in an inappropriate place sometime in December 2008. The 5-year old child told her parents who immediately confronted Dipus.

Dipus, who was a neighbor of the child's babysitter, was 19 years old at the time of the crime. Dipus admitted to having sexual contact with the child when he was interviewed by Detective Vincent Mareham and was arrested the same day. Dipus will be sentenced on Dec. 16, 2010, pending the completion of a pre-sentence investigation. ***(PR)***



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• Participants will receive one (1) whole pumpkin, free of charge. It must be returned by Friday, October 29, no later than 5:00 pm
Pumpkins are available beginning Monday, October 25, 2010
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aqua resort club saipan

Man convicted of murder in '96 convicted anew for turtle possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was convicted of second degree murder in 1996, got another conviction yesterday for possession of a green sea turtle that was removed from Saipan waters.

Henry S. Ada, 31, and counsel, Sean Frink, signed a plea agreement with chief prosecutor Michael Ernest.

Ada pleaded guilty to possession of an endangered and threatened species.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja accepted Ada's guilty plea and the agreement.

Naraja sentenced the defendant to six months in prison, all suspended except for the first 105 days.

Ada was given credit for the eight days he already served in jail. He is expected to complete the jail sentence at the Department of Corrections on Jan. 26, 2011.

Naraja said the sentence encompasses 15 days of imposed sentence from the previous murder case, and three months for the possession of turtle.

After completing the jail term, Ada will be placed on three years of probation and required to pay a $100 fine, $300 probation fee, and $25 court fee.

The judge ordered the defendant to perform 200 hours of community work service.

Naraja prohibited the defendant from boarding a boat for fishing during the probationary period and that his spearfishing shall be limited and monitored by local conservation authorities.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Ada and co-defendants Jimmy K. Manalo, Derek P. San Nicolas, and Neildino S. Taisacan with possession of an endangered and threatened species, and conspiracy to possess an endangered and threatened species.

The OAG alleged that the defendants violated the Non-Commercial Fish and Wildlife Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code by removing a green sea turtle from Saipan waters on Sept. 5, 2010.

A conservation officer stated in his report that the group allegedly engaged in harvesting *haggan* (green sea turtles) and selling the meat to their friends.

Chief Prosecutor Ernest said their office is pleased with Ada's conviction.

"This is the first of numerous pending convictions and sentences which directly result from the great job done by the conservation officers from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. They were professional and tenacious," Ernest said.

Ernest thanked assistant attorney general Eileen Escudero Wisor, who is assigned to the Coral Reef Initiative, for her assistance in the investigation.

He said numerous federal agencies also offered assistance.

"This is a textbook example of inter-jurisdictional cooperation," said Ernest, who also thanked the Turtle Advocate and Guardian Society, a newly formed group for their support in the investigation.

Teen books available at public library

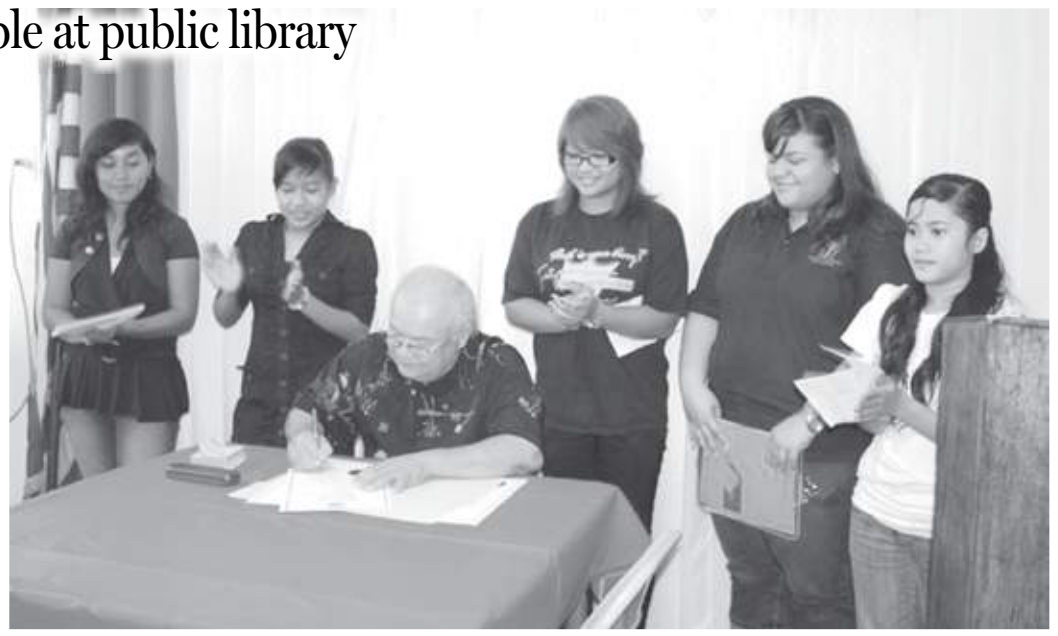
Books for and about teenagers are up on display at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library as part of its efforts to observe Teen Read Week.

Children's Library Associate Erlinda C. Naputi said emphasis is placed on these books to encourage teenagers to visit the library and read books.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores signed a proclamation on Wednesday designating Oct. 17 to 23 as Teen Read Week on the island.

Students and library representatives from Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School as well as the staff of Joeten-Kiyu Public Library witnessed the proclamation signing held at the mayor's conference room in San Antonio.

Flores challenged teenagers to read more to improve reading skills and gain more knowledge.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores signs a proclamation designating Oct. 17-23 as Teen Read Week. Looking on are student representatives from various public schools.

Naputi told *Saipan Tribune* that popular teen books such as the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer, *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini, and the *Harry Potter* series by J. K. Rowling are available at the public library.

Posters illustrating different teenagers were also put up for display on a wall at the library, along with proclamation signed by the Saipan Mayor. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 22, 1999

Lang has to get a lawyer, says AG

Embattled former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has to get a new lawyer and pay for his own defense to appeal a 1997 court ruling that ordered him to pay $12.4 million to the CNMI people for unlawful expenditures of public funds. This was the contention of acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara, who yesterday reaffirmed the administration's initial rejection of any legal or financial assistance to the ex-governor because it is no longer a government obligation. "He has to get a new counsel by today (Thursday)," she told reporters in an interview. "The court will decide whether he is or not" entitled to the assistance which Froilan sought from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in their meeting last week. Froilan has argued the AG misinterpreted provisions of an existing law on public employee legal defense and indemnification that the present administration used to deny him help.

CUC defends decision on Saipan power project

Saying it's like comparing apples and oranges, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday lashed back at allegation that it has erred in its initial decision to award the controversial Saipan power project to Marubeni-Sithe after independent experts ranked other firms higher. Acting CUC Executive Director Patrick Leon Guerrero defended the selection process adopted by the government-owned utility corporation when it chose Japan's Marubeni Corp. and its U.S. partner, Sithe Energies, Inc., over other competitors last year. He said CUC and Burns & McDonnell—the private engineering firm it hired early this year in response to mounting complaints—evaluated the bidders on different proposals submitted as their "best and final offers."

Oct. 22, 2001

Young legislators take oath

A mixed gaggle of anxious parents, indulgent officials and curious onlookers burst into cheers and a storm of clapping, soon after the 23 new members of the 4th Youth Congress took their "oaths of office" Saturday morning at the lower house chamber. An estimated 200 persons crowded inside the House of Representatives-including the hallways-to witness the inauguration of the new Youth Congress, whose members were either nervous, tearful, or terribly formal. Dressed in their Sunday best, all Youth Congress members were clad in somber gray colors, with the boys in suits and ties and the girls in formal gowns. All wore mwar-mwars and most had leis around their necks.

House awaits new budget proposal from Teno

With projected lower earnings staring them in the face, the House of Representatives junked the original budget proposal of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday, as they await the resubmission of a new budget reflecting the reduced spending level. During Friday's special session, the House voted to file House Bill 12-404, soon after rejecting the Senate amendments on the original $233-million budget proposal for fiscal year 2002. A bill is virtually dead once the Legislature votes to file it. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said that, with the reduced expected revenue for the next fiscal year, it is only logical to junk the old proposal and wait for the Governor to resubmit a new one. Tenorio had originally submitted a $233-million spending level for fiscal year 2002 based on projected revenues.

Oct. 22, 2002

Babauta eyes cuts in govt cars

As the NMI government continues to grapple with falling revenues and a soft domestic economy, the Babauta administration is reviewing its policy on government-leased vehicles, with a view toward cutting this expenditure down to size. In line with this, Gov. Juan N. Babauta has directed an inventory of all government-leased vehicles to give the administration a complete picture of where they can make effective cuts that would contain this particular drain on government coffers. "I have asked for a listing of all the government vehicles that are under lease. We're spending millions of dollars on government-leased vehicles and I just wanted to have an inventory-a clear picture-of how much is out there in terms of government vehicles so we can begin to streamline and reduce costs, essentially cutting back on this area of expenditures," said Babauta.

3 suspected 'ice' traffickers fall

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three persons, including a woman, were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Mendel Jeffrey Techur, 37, Anthony Villanueva, 32, and Karlene Reyes Lizama, 37, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for their initial appearance.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona maintained the $30,000 cash bail each for the defendants as the court had earlier set.

Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 28 for Lizama and Dec. 29 for Villanueva and Techur.

Police served the arrest warrant to Techur in Koblerville, Villanueva in As Gonno, on charges of trafficking of controlled substance, illegal possession of controlled substance, and conspiracy.

Police served the arrest warrant to Lizama in San Vicente on charges of trafficking of controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that on Oct. 7, 2010 members of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau and Narcotics Unit conducted a monitored purchase of "ice" from Techur using a confidential source.

Castro said the confidential source was able to purchase $50 worth of "ice" from Techur inside a car in the parking lot of Smile Poker in Chalan Kanoa.

Villanueva served as the driver of the car, according to the detective.

Castro said Techur was arrested in the past for illegal drug related charges.

Manglona found out that Techur has two pending bench warrant for traffic and small claims cases.

Assistant Attorney General Benjamin Petersburg appeared for the government. The judge appointed assistant public defender Richard Miller as counsel for Villanueva.

Manglona required Techur to proceed to the Office of the Adult Probation to determine if he is eligible for court-appointed counsel.

Manglona initially found that Techur is not eligible for court-appointed counsel.

Drug Enforcement Task Force Detective Sean White stated in his report that on Oct. 7, 2010 the Drug Enforcement Task Force conducted a controlled buy operation utilizing a cooperating source to purchase $100 worth of "ice" from Lizama in Garapan.

White said the cooperating source disclosed that Lizama has been selling "ice" and told the source that a Chinese friend has been supplying her the illegal drugs "24 hours a day."

Mayor Flores supports use of alternative energy

The CNMI should look for alternative sources of energy to address the problem of high fuel costs.

Flores

"The administration should look for alternative power sources like windmills and solar energy because oil prices continue to go up," said Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores after the Teen Read Week proclamation signing Wednesday.

Flores said he learned about alternative energy and efficiency from attending the first day of the Pacific Island Energy Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday.

The Pacific Island Energy Symposium is a three-day event organized by the Northern Marianas College and the U.S. Department of Energy Office of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Pacific Islands leaders and energy experts from the U.S. graced the opening of the energy symposium.

Flores said he is in favor of utilizing alternative energy in the Commonwealth.

"What's going to happen to us if fuel costs continue to increase? We have to start looking for ways to help our ailing economy," said Flores. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Business owners warned not to buy 'illegal merchandise

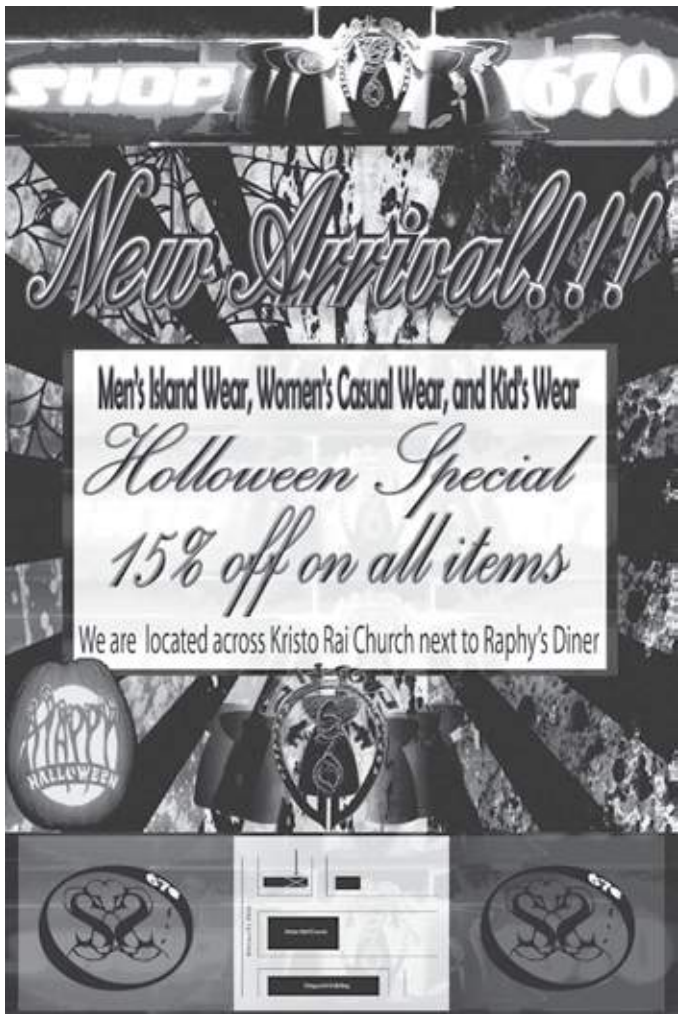
The government has warned business owners in the CNMI not to receive and/or purchase goods, merchandise, or commodities from any person who does not have a valid license to conduct business in the Commonwealth.

Pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, Title 4, Dvision 5, Section 5611(a), it states: "Before engaging in or continuing in a business, a person shall first obtain from the Secretary of the Department of Finance a license to engage in or conduct that business."

Furthermore, 4 CMC §5613 states: "Any person found operating or engaging in a business to sell merchandise, goods, or commodities, or providing services for compensation without a valid business license shall be subject to a penalty of $500 and upon written notice to a person under subsection (c) of this section, any continual violation shall subject the person to an additional penalty of $100 per day for every additional day that the person is in violation of the business license provisions."

All licensed business owners are cautioned to not aid or abet business license violators. "Do not buy goods, merchandise, and commodities from anyone who does not have a CNMI business license. Do not risk having 'illegal' merchandise in your inventory," the government's media release stated.

For more information, contact Pam Halstead at 670-664-1010 or via email at pam.halstead@dof.gov.mp. ***(PR)***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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mexico playing a new tune on border security

For too long, the official attitude south of the border toward illegal immigration has been that this is America's problem, not Mexico's. As President Felipe Calderon and his predecessors have noted, Mexicans have a right under their constitution to travel where they please, including across the U.S. border to look for work. If Americans have a problem with that, don't come crying to Mexico.

It's time for a new approach, Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan told the Dallas Morning News editorial board last week. Mexico's best interests aren't always served by playing cheerleader for an estimated 5 million Mexican illegal immigrants here, especially when their presence helps harden attitudes in Congress toward comprehensive immigration reform, which Mexico supports.

Mexico, Sarukhan says, must help more with border enforcement.

"Regardless of what happens on this side of the border, Mexico has got to be able to do two things it has either been unable or unwilling to do in the past," he said. First, it must boost economic growth and job creation "to anchor those women and men with well-paying jobs in Mexico." Second, it must "ensure that every single Mexican that crosses the border into the United States does so with papers, through a designated port of entry, and legally."

These are powerful words that U.S. legislators need to hear—provided that action follows. Sustaining the economic conditions and high growth rates to anchor Mexican citizens at home will be difficult. But Sarukhan says the second part—border enforcement—can be done under existing law.

Until now, Mexican authorities have not enforced laws requiring citizens to use only legal ports of entry and departure. The consequences of lax enforcement are increasingly evident. At $3,000 to $5,000 a person, smuggling rings reap big profits, and drug cartels have begun a violent campaign to seize control of the business. There has been an explosive increase in kidnapping and extortion targeting migrants at the border. When ransoms aren't paid, hostages are forced into the service of drug cartels. Criminality feeds on itself, and Mexico pays an ever-steeper social price.

Longstanding U.S. policies have made the problem worse. For decades, Sarukhan noted, Mexican deportees have been loaded into buses and released at nearby Mexican border towns, where they congregated by the thousands without jobs or money to return home. Their only choice was to head back north. Now, Mexico is working with the U.S. to repatriate immigrants directly to their home states, dramatically reducing their likelihood of becoming repeat offenders or falling victim to border criminal organizations.

These are smart steps politically when detractors on Capitol Hill look for any reason to block comprehensive immigration reform. And Mexico can only benefit from a more aggressive approach to address the causes of border criminality at their source.

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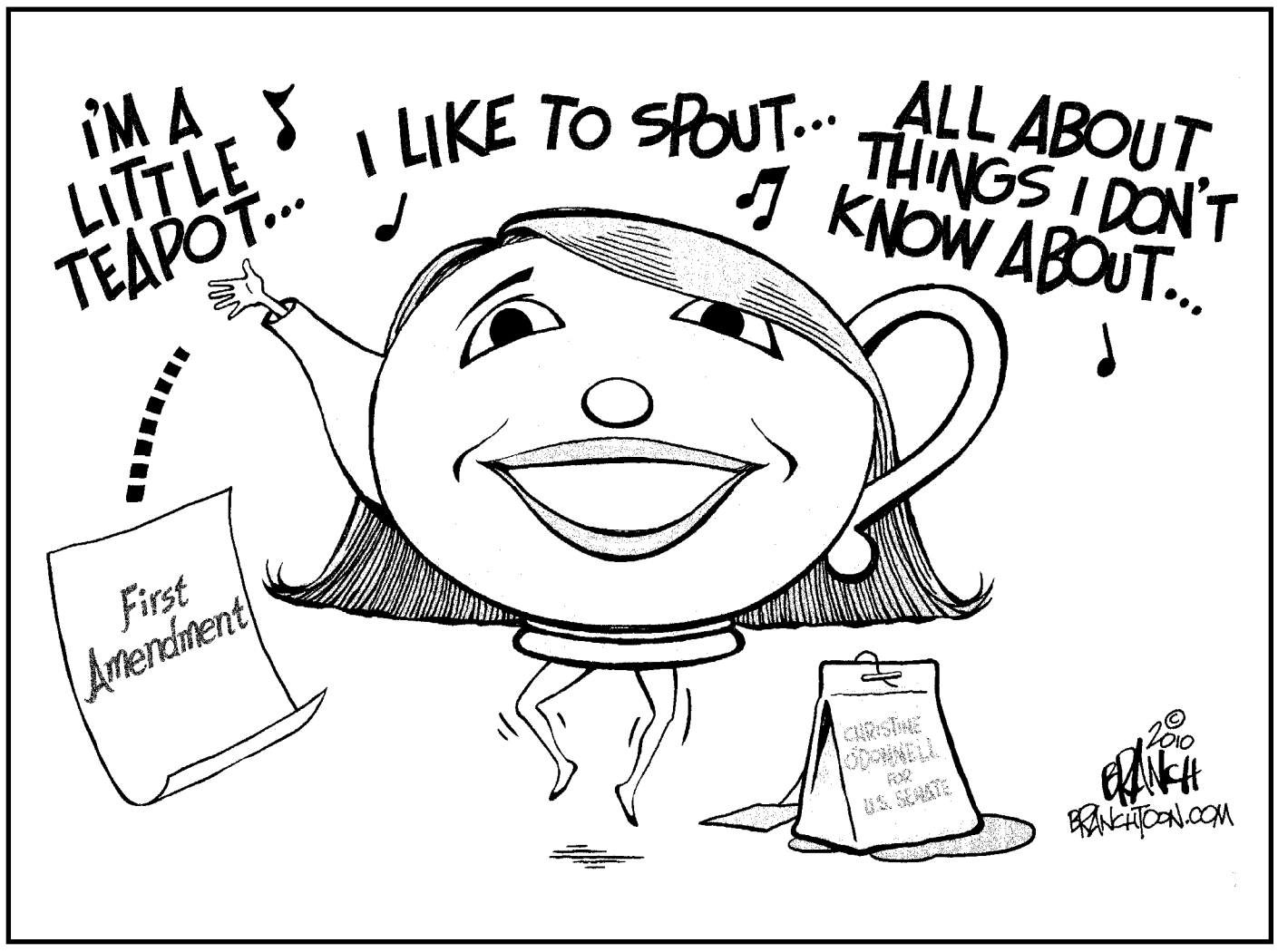
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Reform must, and will, come to Russia

By MIKHAIL B. KHODORKOVSKY
Los Angeles Times

Mikhail B. Khodorkovsky, the former head of the Russian oil company Yukos, has been in prison since being arrested in 2003. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

I am a member of the last generation of Soviet people—those who were born and came of age in the U.S.S.R. In 1990, the final year of the Soviet Union's existence, I was 27 years old. The next generation—of which the first of my sons, born in 1985, is part—only knows about "those times" from our stories.

Growing up, an ordinary young man from the outskirts of Moscow from a family of engineers who worked at a Soviet factory, I believed the things that were said on television, written in the newspapers and taught in school. I wanted, like my parents, to work at a factory and serve my country. I wanted to go further than my father, to become a factory director. Like a third of my peers, I studied at a technical institute, and like 90 percent of them, I was a member of the Young Communist League.

It seemed to me, as it did to everyone else, that the U.S.S.R. would exist forever. Nobody believed that everything could change in an instant, but that is what happened. In the last two decades, it can be said that Russia has been born anew and has finished with the "socialist choice."

Many trials and tribulations awaited us. Having found freedom, we had to defend our choice in the brutal internal conflicts of 1991-93. Things came no easier in the economic sphere. The U.S.S.R., having fallen to pieces, buried all of the country's production systems under its wreckage. During the interregnum, specialists left and equipment broke down.

As I became the manager and then co-owner of a huge energy company, production volume in the oil industry nationally fell to 300 million metric tons a year from 600 million metric tons. But our company, Yukos, managed to achieve excellent economic results. In fact, from 1996 to 2003, oil production doubled to 80 million metric tons, wages quintupled and debt was repaid.

We met daunting challenges, including those brought on by Russia's 1998 financial collapse, when the price of oil fell below the cost of production. In addition to 150,000 employees, I was responsible for the populations of more than two dozen cities and settlements. It's easy to be bold when you've got nothing to lose. But I believe that several million people supported the changes that I put through and that changed their lives as a result.

We staked our claim on efficiency. We reduced costs and competed aggressively. In place of the monster we inherited, one that engaged in everything from beer production to construction, we created a professional oil production company. We spun off all of Yukos' non-core businesses into independent firms, helping employees become owners.

At the same time, we spurred creation of many jobs in what was then a new industry in Russia, Internet services and programming. We retrained thousands of schoolteachers through the Federation of Internet Education, a nonprofit, nongovernment organization.

We emerged from the crisis as the best oil company in Russia, with good public support. It felt as if Russia was irreversibly moving in the direction of a modern democracy and European values. Along with operating businesses, I began to get actively involved in socio-political projects such as education. I established a foundation to support nonprofits and human rights groups, and I also provided funding to opposition parties.

Now, I am in my seventh year in jail.

Vladimir Putin and the former colleagues-in-service brought by him into all the structures of power decided that they had no need for the independent opposition that I supported; they had no need for independent television and no need for real discussions of draft laws in parliament. In short, they opposed everything we were working to achieve all these years.

I could not agree with this, and tried as best I could to resist. What happened next is well known: In 2003, I was arrested on contrived charges of fraud, the perfectly well-working company Yukos was dismembered and annihilated, and its pieces became desirable prizes for the vanquisher's friends. I was convicted and sentenced to prison.

Throughout my troubles, I have had considerable support from outside Russia, including a Senate resolution co-sponsored by John McCain, Joe Biden and Barack Obama in 2005, which said I had not received "fair, transparent and impartial treatment" from the Russian justice system.

But that has made little difference. As my sentence was drawing to an end, additional charges were brought against me in an attempt to ensure I would not be freed anytime soon. The charges are so absurd that even government ministers have rejected them in court. The second trial is ending with my final statements in about 10 days. But nobody expects that there will be an acquittal when the verdict is handed down later this year. Acquittals don't happen in the Yukos case.

I understand Russia's current power elite; they came of age at a time when change was dangerous. If the roof is not leaking today, they don't worry that it will in the future. They believe that the oil and gas bonanza will go on forever and that no real reforms need to be enacted, just some make-believe for the TV cameras. They accept corruption, embrace archaic ideas and are united in their de-

See REFORM on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ed's voting guide for Saipan and everywhere else

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Since everyone is yakking about politics, even more than usual right now, I'll offer some cool and calm wisdom from the late author Harry Browne:

"Hoping to be free, many people engage in continual social combat—joining movements, urging political action, writing letters to editors and Congressmen, trying to educate people...but...the world seems to continue on its path to wherever it's going. Until they die, the hopeful remain just as enslaved as they've always been."

Enslaved, indeed. Enslaved by their emotions, hooked by the urge to crave agreement, and tormented by the compulsion to hate people who disagree with them.

Well, call me out of step with the times, you won't be the first to do so, but I never bought a ticket on the Social Combat express. Join a movement? Never. Urge political action? No way; I've never even voted in my entire life. Write to an editor about politics? Nope. Contact my congressman? I've never even known my congressman's name.

And educate the public? There's no need. After all, Saipan has a bountiful inventory of self-appointed experts on everything, especially in economics, which is why the CNMI is such a financial success story, basking in the lavish rewards of industrious intelligence.

Anyway, no, I'm not on the Social Combat express. Heck, I've never been at the station.

So if you're looking to get mad at somebody about something, please, don't look at me. I'm not part of the arguments or crusades. Never have been.

Maybe I should have a special T-shirt printed for political season, so the partisans can see that I am a non-combatant.

My shirt would say: "I'm like Switzerland: benign and neutral. Have a nice day."

Better yet, as a tangible token of my sentiments, or lack thereof, I could stand by the side of Beach Road (during rush hour, naturally, so I cause a traffic jam) handing out little cubes of Swiss cheese as a symbol of neutrality, stuck on toothpicks, cocktail style.

People would think I'm running for office, but I'd smoothly deliver my well-rehearsed greeting: "Hello, I'm Ed. I have a proud record of over 40 years of complete apathy. I don't stand for anything, I don't want to influence your behavior, I don't want to steal your money, I don't want a bribe, I'm not corrupt, and I don't want your support. Would you like some cheese?"

Or maybe I'll work the crowd. Here's my cheer:

"What do we want?

"NOTHING!"

"When do we want it?"

"WHENEVER!"

Or if we need a really dumb chant, one of those one-two or hey-hey things so we can march around in circles pumping our fists in the air, I'll try this:

"Fibonacci,

one, one, two, three

let's add up to apathy."

Hey, that's pretty good, at least if I can round up a crowd of mathematicians.

But let's wind things up by invoking some exotic wisdom.

There was once a cartoon in the *Singapore Straits Times* that depicted a man-sized heart, suitably anthropomorphic for cartoon duty. The heart holds a whip in one hand. The other hand holds a chain, the opposite end of which is shackled to a man's ankle. The man is passionately yelling at the world about something, he's really giving it a piece of his mind, while the heart remains coolly composed, wearing an impish grin and flashing a knowing wink at the reader.

It's a masterful illustration.

Clearly, the man is not the master of his emotions. Instead, emotions are the master of the man.

The context of the cartoon was to teach the Chinese character for "nu," which means anger, passion, or indignant. The character is formed by a combination of two other characters; one is slave, the other is heart. Interesting, eh?

Yes, interesting. The passions of the masses, they are as colorful as the leaves of New England right now, aren't they? Anyway, here, have some cheese.

Iran's carpet industry floored by US sanctions

By JASON REZAIAN
The Institute for War&Peace Reporting

Jason Rezaian is a reporter in Tehran who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: www.iwpr.net. For information about IWPR's funding, please go to http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?top_supporters.html.

TEHRAN— Iran's famed rug industry faces a serious threat from the latest sanctions imposed by the United States, the biggest market for Persian carpets.

The U.S.-imposed ban on importing Iran-made rugs came into effect just as a weeklong international carpet exhibition was concluding in Tehran. Government officials painted a glowing picture of the carpet industry, estimating that rug exports could reach $500 million a year. They noted that sales for the first five months of the year stood at $207 million, nearly a 50 percent increase compared with the like period last year.

But with the ban now in effect, and the United States accounting for about 20 percent of Persian carpet exports, overall sales for the remainder of the year are expected to plummet.

Around 2 million jobs in Iran are connected to the production and trading of handmade rugs. That means that roughly 10 percent of Iran's population relies on rug making.

It is still too early to estimate what impact the loss of the U.S. market will have on overall sales, but many Iranians are already complaining that they're being punished for the actions of their government.

"We're wondering why the American government would do this," said Mohammad Mehdizadeh, who comes from the renowned carpet-weaving city of Kerman and was exhibiting his wares at the international fair in Tehran. "These sanctions will only affect people in the trade. What connection does the rug business have with politics?"

It's not the first time that Iranian carpet-weavers have been cut off from their primary market. The United States banned Persian carpets for most of the 1980s and all of the 1990s—with limited success.

"The last U.S. embargo spawned a great frenzy of attempting to circumvent the blockade, by exporting rugs to the U.S. via Canada," said one dealer who asked not to be named because he had engaged in illegal carpet sales. "Some dealers were successful and made money; others were apprehended, arrested, tried and served prison time." When the Clinton administration lifted the ban in the late 1990s, it resulted in a flood of Persian rugs being exported to the United States.

But as the West has grown increasingly frustrated with Iran's government in general and its uranium enrichment program in particular, Washington has reacted by imposing increasingly stiff economic sanctions on Iran, including the ban on carpet imports.

Some, however, may actually profit from the embargo.

"This time dealers were aware (the sanctions) this action was coming," said one American importer who was in Tehran for the exhibition and asked that his name not be used. "Many had been expecting it for years. Some of them had been attempting to bring Persian rugs into the country legally before the embargo went into effect."

Now, they're hoping that the import ban and resulting scarcity will boost the price of the Persian carpets they already have on hand.

Letter to the Editor

Setting things straight

On behalf of Management Analysis, Incorporated, I am writing to respond to recent articles published by the *Marianas Variety* which have included potentially misleading statements and speculation regarding the desk audits of two CNMI government departments recently performed by our firm.

In 2009, MAI received and responded to a competitively-bid request for proposals which was publicly announced by the CNMI government. We are pleased to have been selected by the CNMI for these desk audits, and believe this selection was based on MAI's 34 years of experience in performing efficiency and productivity assessments and desk audits of government organizations. These are among the core services that MAI performs as a management consulting firm; in fact, we have done over 900 projects of this type over the past three decades.

We are also pleased that Ms. Lynn Knight, a former CNMI resident, joined our office in Virginia last year. We value the expertise in tourism, economic development, and strategic planning she brings to our staff. However, she did not participate in writing the desk audit proposal, was not bid as a member of the desk audit team, and did not participate in these studies, because this is not her area of focus. MAI's project team for the desk audits was identified in our proposal to the CNMI government, and included project managers and analysts experienced in precisely the type of study sought by the CNMI.

Another article identified Mr. Edward Arriola as our registered agent in the CNMI and made reference to his employment at Tan Holdings. Mr. Arriola was selected as our agent after we considered several local candidates. His association with MAI is as an individual and his employment with Tan Holdings had no bearing on our decision. With all due respect to Tan Holdings, there is no connection between MAI and that firm.

MAI is an independently owned and operated company that hires its employees strictly for the skills and knowledge that they can bring to our work. We have a long-standing commitment to doing business in the Pacific region and hope our expertise can be of value to island communities.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his administration, as well as the people of the CNMI.

Arthur L. Smith
President, Management Analysis, Incorporated

REFORM

From Page 10

sire to keep talented, creative people off the public stage. A modern, innovation-driven economic model is the antithesis of their hierarchical approach.

It is precisely these kinds of mistakes that led to the death of the Soviet Union.

There is a new generation of Russian politicians waiting in the wings, people who are ready to accept the world as it really is: rapidly globalizing and dynamic. These people are ready for real political competition; they believe in an open societal discussion of ideas, strive to win the support of fellow citizens who actually have thought through their positions on the issues and drawn conclusions about the proper course. Members of this new political establishment realize the need for working state and civic institutions that include an independent judiciary, parliament and media. They are ready to run a modern, complex mechanism of state, and not to try to simplify it down to a primitive "vertical" of executive power.

This is why the conservative "old" leadership is very much afraid of a real transfer of power to the "new" generation.

Russia is approaching the very same point that the U.S.S.R. found itself in back in the second half of the 1980s. Then there arose a crisis of the communist ideology as the planned economy of "real socialism" revealed its strategic inefficiency. For Russia, the second decade of the 21st century will become a period of crisis for a system built on corruption and hands-on control. Insightful Russians with initiative, knowing how to look to the future, understand this already.

In my youth, the leaders of the U.S.S.R. had no desire whatsoever to leave power. But history obliged them to do so just the same. Today's Russian theoreticians and practitioners of "vertically corrupt management" have no intention of going anywhere.

But they will have to. I know. I've seen it before.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

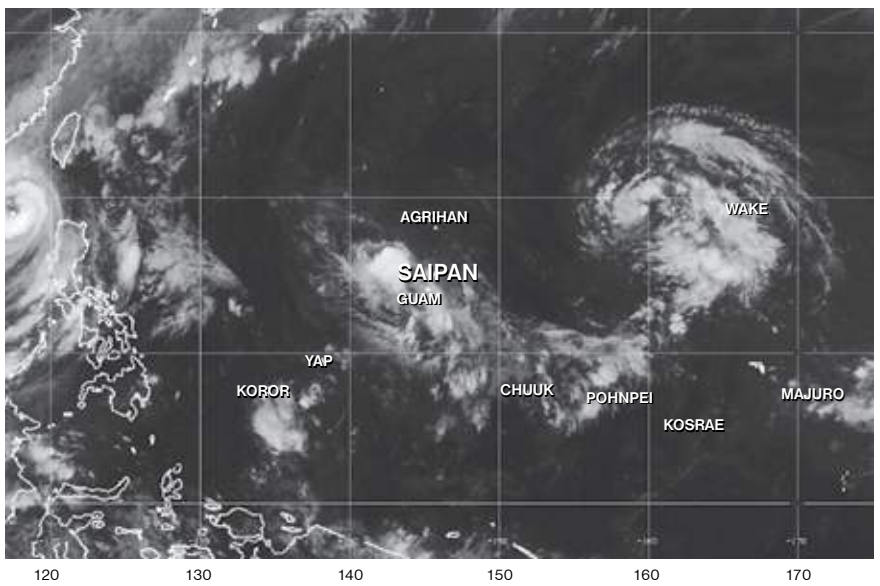
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼72
Kosrae	Showers	▲91	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼52
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼65
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼42
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲81	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲86	▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼42
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼61
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼35
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼48
San Francisco	Showers	▲59	▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼52
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from a developing tropical disturbance northeast of Saipan centered near 16N146E to end at 6N135E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found primarily southwest of the disturbance over the CNMI between 16N and 13N from 143E to 147E. Scattered showers are located near the trough axis southeast of Koror between 8N and 5N from 134E to 139E. Scattered showers are also found west of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 7N147E to 11N151E. A tropical disturbance is centered southwest of Wake Island at 16N160E. An upper-level low is centered just south of the low-level circulation at 14N160E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Wake Island between 23N and 15N from 158E to 168E and within 100 miles of a line from 11N162E to 15N165E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just east of Majuro between 11N and 5N from 171E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:23 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
6:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:08 PM	5:11 AM
Saturday	5:48 PM	6:00 AM
Sunday	6:32 PM	6:52 AM
Monday	7:20 PM	7:46 AM
Tuesday	8:12 PM	8:41 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
C09316/893	2:45am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/173	7:50am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9316	4:15pm	3:35am+1	3, 6 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
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Saipan violinist shines in Guam concert

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan's young violinist Zhen Yu Su poses with Guam Symphony Orchestra music director/ conductor Dr. Stephen Bednarzyk after the season premier concert Sunday night at Hyatt Regency Guam.

Fourteen-year-old violinist Zhen Yu Su, a student of Do Re Mi Music School in Saipan, amazed hundreds of spectators with his special performance during a concert organized by the Guam Symphony Society Sunday night at Hyatt Regency Guam.

Su, accompanied by his music director Ao Zhang, was among the special guest performers at the "Beethoven and Blues Jeans" 44th Season Premier Concert which was graced by over 400 spectators and music enthusiasts from all over the region.

"It was overwhelming and fulfilling!" shared Zhang about his student's experience playing with the 50-member Guam Symphony Orchestra.

Zhen began playing the violin under maestro Zhang when he was six. Since 2002, the student has participated in five of the school's annual violin recitals and has performed to critical acclaim at the 2009 Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival and was adjudged champion in his division at the 2010 Guam Symphony Society's Young Artists Competition.

According to Zhang, despite the busy schedule of Su in his school, the student was consistent in rehearsing for his pieces for his next journey: the Aspen Music Festival next summer.

"I was so amazed with his talent…and very proud of his performance! Despite having a lot of talented musicians and performers in the region, Su was able to showcase what Do Re Mi School and the CNMI can offer [in terms of music]," he said.

Zhang described his student as a talented boy who plays music from his heart.

Su is the youngest son of Hong Chao Chen and Ying Qi Su.

Saipan Tribune learned that Su also plays for Chinese associations on Saipan each year and his repertoire includes the following: *Mendelssohn-Violin Concerto*; *Bruch-Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor*; *Wieniawski-Violin Concerto in D minor*; *Beethoven-Sonata No. 8*; *Sarasate-Zigeunerweisen*; *Sarasate-Carmen Fantasy*; and *Lalo-Symphonie Espagnole.*

The pieces, considered among the difficult ones for young violinists, always garnered standing ovations from the crowd after each performance.

Zhang also disclosed that music enthusiasts hailed Su's performance last weekend and that he received applauses from the audience. Others also asked for the young musician's authograph and photos after his 45-minute performance.

The Guam Symphony Society earlier stated that Yu's performance brought a new level to the music competition and inspired young violinists to work even harder.

DoReMi Music School on Saipan was founded in April 1992. Besides the annual grand recital of its students, the school also throws benefit concerts for senior citizens, the hospital, Flame Tree Festival, and other community events.

Zhang, the music instructor and founder of the school, entered Tian Jin Conservatory of Music in 1970 and had played with Tian Jin Orchestra. In 1991, he came to Saipan and started the school.

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Local group receives grant for traveling cultural centers in the CNMI

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Association of Native Medicine and Culture president Isidoro T. Cabrera, right, and staff Manny F. Borja at the group's office in Capital Hill.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Each of the three major islands in the CNMI will soon have a traveling cultural center, thanks to a federal grant received by an organization that aims to uphold and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Marianas.

The Association of Native Medicine and Culture or the Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw has been awarded a $245,385 grant by the Administration for Native Americans to establish Carolinian/Chamorro Traveling Cultural Village Centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Formerly the Native Medicine Association, the group is a non-profit organization established in 2007 in response to community needs identified during the Primet Konferensian Chamorro or the First Chamorro Conference in 2006.

President Isidoro T. Cabrera said the group realized the need to protect the local traditions and culture in addition to native medicine, hence integrating culture preservation in the group's goals and objectives as well as its name.

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that the group applied for the grant under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services early this year to establish traveling cultural village centers in the CNMI.

"Cultural village centers are essential for the learning, practice, and preservation of the Chamorro and Carolinian traditions and cultures so that these knowledge and practices can carry on to future generations," he said.

Manny A. Borja, Association of Native Medicine and Culture staff, said children these days are bombarded with western technology and influence.

"It's not too late. We still have the opportunity to teach the younger generation about our traditions and cultures," said Borja.

Cabrera said they received a letter from ANA Commissioner Lillian A. Sparks informing them about the grant approval.

In her letter, Sparks told Cabrera that grant funds provided by ANA are obtained through a very competitive application process.

She said ANA received 389 grant applications with funding requests for about $84.5 million.

Cabrera said this is the second grant received by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture. The first one was for the research and publication of the Directory of Traditional Healers and Medicinal Plants in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in 2009.

Project components

Borja said the two-year project is comprised of two components. The first year of the project is aimed at establishing the village centers on Saipan and Rota.

The group's current office at House No. 1213 in Capital Hill next to the Parole Office will serve as the site for Saipan as well as the headquarters for the traveling cultural village centers.

On Rota, the site will be at the Community and Cultural Affairs office in Songsong next to the Round House.

Borja said a hut will be built on each site where people can learn about traditional cooking, arts and crafts, conflict resolution or truce making, traditional medicine, and coconut oil making, among others.

The second year of the project will focus on the setting up the village center on Tinian at the island's youth center as well as researching, writing, and publishing a resource book on traditional Chamorrita, an indigenous form of improvised, rhyming debate.

According to Borja, the Chamorrita that present generations know is far from its indigenous, traditional form.

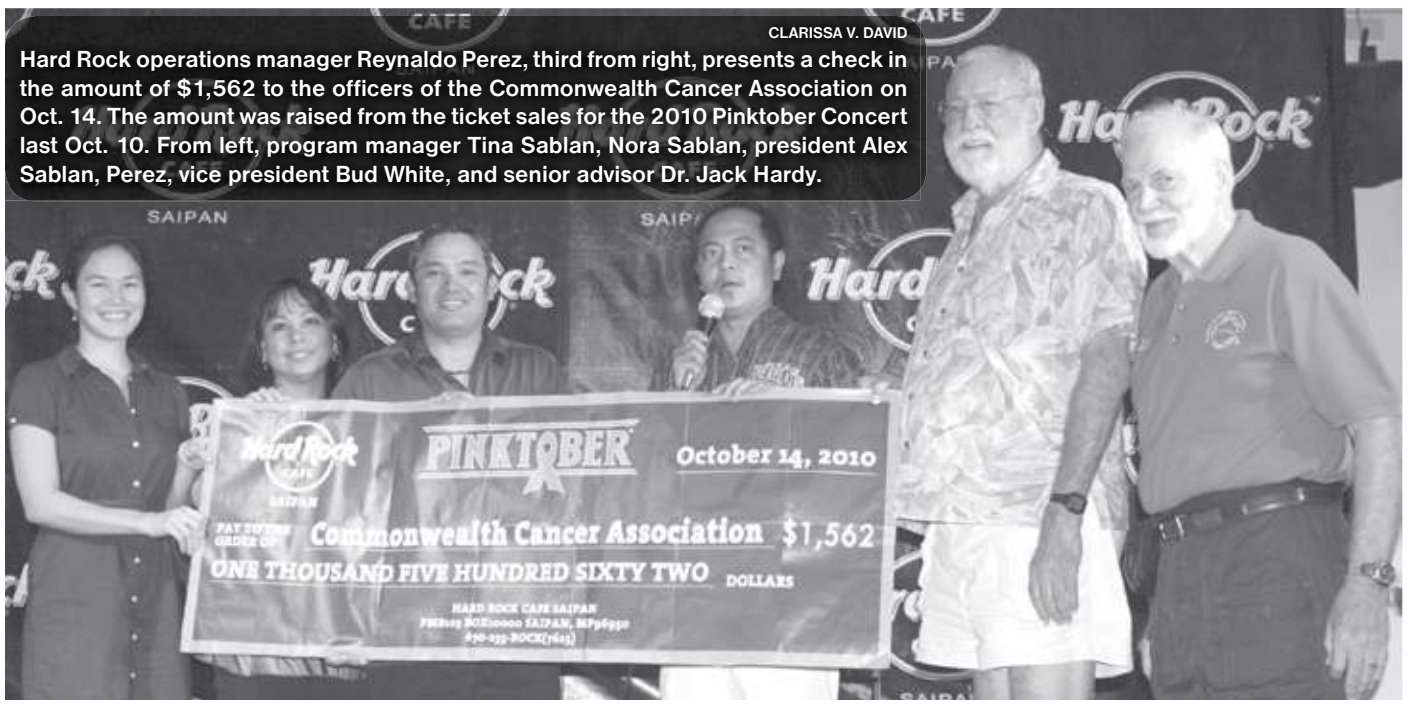
Borja said the group will collaborate with cultural experts like Donald Mendiola, Carlos Borja, Noel Quitugua, and Rosa Warakai in carrying out this project.

He said they plan on hiring the needed personnel such as project director, researchers, and helpers by next month.

"We hope that through this project, we will be able to teach younger generations about the native culture and equip them with traditional knowledge and skills," he said.

Borja acknowledged offices that continue to provide them support such as the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Youth Affairs and the Indigenous Affairs offices.

CCA thanks Hard Rock, supporters for Pinktober success



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hard Rock operations manager Reynaldo Perez, third from right, presents a check in the amount of $1,562 to the officers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association on Oct. 14. The amount was raised from the ticket sales for the 2010 Pinktober Concert last Oct. 10. From left, program manager Tina Sablan, Nora Sablan, president Alex Sablan, Perez, vice president Bud White, and senior advisor Dr. Jack Hardy.

Commonwealth Cancer Association extended its appreciation to Hard Rock Cafe and all the sponsors, musical performers, volunteers, and supporters who helped make the Pinktober breast cancer awareness and fundraising event held on Oct. 10, 2010 a great success.

Hundreds packed the Hard Rock Cafe that night to show their support for breast cancer awareness, help raise funds for the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and enjoy the fantastic performances of many talented local artists.

The evening included a special song number and slideshow dedicated to breast cancer survivors, a silent auction, raffle drawing, limited-edition Pinktober merchandise sales, a breast cancer awareness exhibit and educational announcements, and health screenings coordinated by the Department of Public Health.

The total amount of funds raised for the CCA was $4,272, including $1,562 from Pinktober ticket proceeds, $2,400 from the Durables Club of Saipan, and $310 from the silent auction.

Aside from Hard Rock, the Department of Public Health, and The Durables Club of Saipan, CCA also extends its deepest appreciation to the following:

Sponsors—Alamo Rent a Car, DFS Galleria, IT&E, Konflict, National Car Rental, Pepsi, and Power 99.

Musical performers—Afetnas Regime, Black Sands Band, Burning Bush, Jerry Alcantara, Larra Ramos, Leila Staffler, Past and Present Band, Pats & Dhen Acoustic Night, and The Sai.

Auction donors—Barry Wonenberg, Expressions, Fusion Designs, and Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.

CCA volunteers—Ann Lagmay, Martha Mendiola, Milescelyn Rodriguez, and Mindy Park.

Master of ceremonies—Jordan Davis.

Members of the Breast Cancer Awareness Committee—Joanne Ogo, Jocelyn Songsong, Arielle Buyum, Trina Sablan, Evonne Sablan, Angela Rosario, Shiella Perez, Rose Castro, April Camacho, Jonathan Kiyoshi, and Tayna Camacho. ***(PR)***

CCA Saturday Strides set Saturday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association has scheduled a slew of activities starting with tomorrow's monthly Saturday Strides fun run/walk at Minatchom Atdao.

Registration begins at 5:30am; a $5 donation fee is requested. In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, all participants are encouraged to wear pink. Held on a monthly basis to promote healthy physical activity and raise funds for cancer programs, Saturday Strides is made possible through the support of CCA volunteers, Micronesian Brokers, the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and Foremost Foods. For more information, call 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

CCA will then have a cancer survivor support meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm.

All cancer survivors are invited to the next survivor support meeting where a mini-workshop on "The Joy of Seeing, Taking, and Sharing Photographs," by professional photographer Mr. Bryan Jones will be held.

A graduate of the Brooks Institute, a photographer of 33 years, and a prostate cancer survivor of five years, Jones will share how his love of photography helped calm his mind, body, and spirit during his cancer journey. All meeting participants are encouraged to bring a camera.

Jones' presentation will be followed by a survivors-only discussion. For more information, or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org, or call the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 682-0050.

The CCA board will then convene on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the Mai Restaurant, Fiesta Resort & Spa, starting at 12pm.

The agenda will include updates on the 2009 annual report publication, Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities, publication of A Yogini's Cancer Journey (personal story of a cancer survivor), and the Comprehensive Cancer Control Coaltition Memorandum of Understanding; CCA's financial report for the quarter ending Sept. 30; reports from the board committees and program manager; a review of CCA patient services policies; discussion of the upcoming 2010 Diabetes Health Community Forums and the 2010 Health & Wellness Fair in November; and updates on the promulgation of regulations for the Smoke-Free Air Act. All CCA Board meetings are open to the public. A copy of the agenda is attached in this email. For more information, call 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

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Jason Lee
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Jee Hyun Lee
Emily Dewitt
Han Mii Oh

"B" Honor 3.00-3.49
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Jin Pyo Jeon
Lydin Johnson
Xuan Jun Lu
Jehn Joyner
Seiya Eda
Clayton Sablan

Season tickets now available for members of Friends of the Arts

In an effort to acknowledge the challenging economic times, while still providing quality community entertainment, the Friends of the Arts proudly announces the availability of season tickets for FOA members.

Season tickets will provide discounted access to the quickly approaching "The Darker Side of Broadway" later this month, as well as to the upcoming Christmas, Valentine's, and Spring productions of the season. Anyone interested in Friends of the Arts membership and season tickets can contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com for more information.

The first opportunity to use FOA season tickets comes in time for All Hallows Eve. Dubbed "The Darker Side of Broadway," a very intriguing yet brilliantly conceived title promises a collection of powerful, meaningful and moving repertoire although not necessarily all dark, sinister and shady. While there are songs that thrive in the boundary of conflict and tragic characters, there are also songs of the contrary, full of hope and compassion for life. The three series of stories in this concert each feature a villain. These so-called villains however are not always entirely evil. One was an unfortunate result of a bad experiment; the other was a victim of social injustice and even worse was denied the truth and our last fiend from Oz was a matter fact very ideal and good-natured. She was simply misunderstood. Regardless of whatever conflict our characters were in, good always found its way to conquer evil.

Friends of the Arts proudly presents a cast of great singers and a show you don't want to miss this coming Halloween. So before you go out trick or treating, stop by the Visitors Center Auditorium at the American Memorial Park on Nov. 28, 29, and 30 for yet another enjoyable production. Shows start at 7pm and tickets are available at the door or from any FOA board member. ***(PR)***

4 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Jeffries Beach, Old Man by the Sea, Obyan Beach, and Unai Dangkulo and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

US MILITARY CONTRACTING
Small Business Outreach Forum
OCTOBER 27th, 2010 - 8:00am-4:30pm
Tinian Dynasty Hotel
Hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Honorable Mayor Ray Dela Cruz
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

Mr. John Jackson
Director of the Joint Guam Program Office

Mr. Richard Solander
Project Manager
Office of Economic Adjustment
Office of the Secretary of Defense

Mrs. Vera Topasna
Program Manager
US Department of Defense Procurement Technical Assistance Center

Mr. Albert Sampson
Small Business Advisor
NAVFAC Marianas

RADM Paul J. Bushong
US Defense Representative for Micronesia

CAPT Peter S. Lynch
Commanding Officer of NAVFAC Marianas

Mr. Frank Crisostomo-Kaaihue
Director
Guam Veterans Business Outreach Center

Mr. Casey Jeszenka
Network Director
Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center

Mr. Christopher Dunsmore
Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)–Pacific Guam

The **Tinian Chamber of Commerce US Military Contracting Small Business Outreach Forum** will be held on **October 27th, 2010** and begins at **8AM (registration) 9AM(first speaker) and ends at 4:30PM** the same day. Participants can therefore attend the meeting during the day on Tinian and be able to return back to Guam or Saipan the same day if necessary. Registration is $25 with no lunch or $45 with lunch. All funds collected go to the Tinian Chamber of Commerce in order to cover expenses of hosting the event. To register, please visit
www.TinianChamber.com

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FACT-FINDING MISSION
House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), left, exchanges business cards with Pohnpei Sen. Marvin Yamaguchi, right, on Tuesday morning on Capital Hill. Yamaguchi is part of a four-member fact-finding delegation from Pohnpei. The visiting senators want to learn from the CNMI the challenges and successes of establishing a casino industry on Tinian and Rota and similar efforts on Saipan, as Pohnpei also embarks on building a casino industry to help grow its economy.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NMC-CREES sets workshop on Pest Identification

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program will be hosting a workshop geared toward educating the public, especially local farmers, about different pests and how to control these pests.

The Pest Identification workshop is designed to help participants learn more about insect pests, plant diseases, and other types of destructive pests, such as rodents, snails, and slugs. The workshop also teaches participants various methods on how to control these different pests including the use of neem leaf extract, which the NMC-CREES Entomology Department has developed into an effective and environmentally safe pesticide.

The workshop will also feature presentations from NMC-CREES entomologist-nematologist Dr. Marisol Quitanilla, plant pathologist Dr. Dilip Nandwani, agriculture consultant Isidoro "Sid" Cabrera, integrated pest management coordinator Alejandro Badilles, and pesticide safety education coordinator and agriculture research agent Arnold Route.

The Pest Identification workshop, which requires no registration or participation fee, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2010 at the Saipan Grand Hotel from 8am to 4pm.

To register or for more information, contact the NMC-CREES Entomology Office at 234-5498 ext. 1432, or Isidoro "Sid" Cabrera at 788-9693. ***(PR)***

NMC *offers courses to improve* PRAXIS II *score*

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, is off two short-term courses to individuals preparing to take the PRAXIS II examination. The courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide a variety of continuing education and professional development opportunities needed to support the community.

These courses will help participants enhance their knowledge of subjects that kindergarten through 12th grade educators will teach, and improve their general and subject-specific teaching skills. Both courses are open to all elementary school teachers in public and private schools.

The first session review will cover Elementary Education: Content Knowledge on the subjects of Literature & Language Arts, History and Social Studies, and Sciences. The second session review will cover Elementary Education: Content Knowledge on the subject of Mathematics.

PRAXIS II Review: Literature & Language Arts, History and Social Studies, and Sciences

Dates: Oct. 30 – Nov. 6, 2010 (Saturday)
Time: 8am - 12pm
Location: Room A-7
Instructor: Charles Algaier
Fee: $120 (Course materials included)

PRAXIS II Review: Mathematics

Dates: Nov. 6, 2010 (Saturday)
Time: 1pm – 5pm
Location: Room A-7
Instructor: Lyte Chapap
Fee: $60 (Course materials included)

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Full payment is required for admission into a class. Certificates of completion are awarded upon request by students who complete all course requirements.

To register or to obtain more information, you can visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC campus in As Terlaje or contact Les Ogumoro-Uludong at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. You can also visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Newly Revised IDPs at NMC's School of Education

The Northern Marianas College School of Education is unveiling newly revised Individual Degree Plans (IDPs) for its new program concentrations in Early Childhood Education, Special Education, and Rehabilitation and Human Services.

Students currently enrolled in these programs and those who are interested in learning more about them are encouraged to meet with SOE faculty at NMC's Building 'T' anytime between 7:30am and 5pm on Tuesday, Oct. 26, or Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010.

The newly revised IDPs specify which specific courses need to be completed to fulfill the requirements of NMC's Bachelor of Science in Education. For more information, please call 234-5498 extension 2234 or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

Military training on W-517

The CNMI Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, announced that the U.S. Military Unit will be conducting military training on W517 on Oct 26, 2010 from 9am to 5pm.

The general location of this activity will be on W-517—an irregular polygon south of Guam, comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace begins south of Guam and extend south-southwest into international waters.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

Application for Energy Star Rebate Program now open

The CNMI Energy Division Office will begin accepting applications for its Energy Star Rebate Program on Oct. 27, 2010.

The program is under the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Energy Star Rebate Program (CNMI-EECBG-ARRA-ESRP) for the replacement of old inefficient appliances with qualified energy-efficient Energy Star products.

Rebate applications will be available to the public at the CNMI Energy Division Office located at House No. 1337, Ascencion Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 or may be downloaded from its official website at cnmienergy.com

If anyone should have any question or need additional information, please contact Vince T. Palacios at 664-4480/ 81. ***(PR)***

Book sale set on Nov. 13

The CNMI Friends of the Library will be hosting a book sale on Nov. 13 at the Joeten Kiyu Library in susupe.

Hardcover books will be priced at $1 and softcovers will be priced at $.50.

For more information on the event and or to be a volunteer member of the CNMI Friends of the Library, please call Mrs. Janice Sablan at 234-5459 or Schobwuut Premier Consulting's Rose T. Ada-Hocog at 287-0818. You can also email them at janicesablan@yahoo.com or rosetada@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

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Coastal Resources Management
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
October 22, 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM	09/10/10 SPlm-2010-X-086	OFFICE RE-CONSTRUCTION	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(09/20/10)
2. YTS MICRONESIA	09/22/10 STRSm-2010-X-87	FILMING	SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (09/24/10)*
3. COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORP.	10/08/10 SPlm-2010-X-088	REPLACE FUEL PIPELINE	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(09/30/10)*
4. SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION INC.	10/08/10 SSm-2010-X-089	FILMING	SAIPAN SHORELINE	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(10/12/10)*
5. MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY	10/15/10 STRS/LRm-2010-X-90	FILMING	SAIPAN SHORELINE	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(10/15/10)*
6. HIRO CORP.	10/19/10 SPlm-2010-X-091	DRYDOCK	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(10/19/10)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

(Notice of Chinese Passport Renewal and Replacement)

中国驻洛杉矶总领馆赴塞班、天宁
受理中国护照申请的通知

为方便广大侨胞，中华人民共和国驻洛杉矶总领事馆证件组将赴塞班、天宁现场受理中国护照换发和补发的申请，欢迎前往办理。

具体时间、地点如下：

塞班： 11月5日（星期五）
上午9：00----下午3：00 （时间充裕，办完为止）
优光(EUCON)国际大学AGAPE礼堂（位于中间路）

天宁： 11月6日（星期六）
上午9：00----中午12：00
天宁皇朝酒店

本次只受理护照在**2011**年**10**月前过期的中国护照换发申请。护照换发或补发必须本人亲自前来办理。

请各位申请人务必提前认真阅读有关办证须知，按要求填妥申请表、准备好护照照片、相关文件及复印件、回邮信封及费用。（详情参阅2010年10月22日出版的《塞班侨报》，或登陆洛杉矶总领事馆网站网址查阅（http://losangeles.china-consulate.org）

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross NMI Chapter's Club 200 sponsor Exotic Minis/Team Exotic Car Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross NMI Chapter's Club 200 sponsor Joeten Foundation.

More generous donors support Club 200

Joeten Foundation, Bank of Hawaii, and Exotic Minis/Team Exotic Car Club have provided financial donations to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter to support their Club 200 event.

"Big or small, every donation is important to the Chapter," said event co-chair Jocelyn DeLeon Guerrero.

"The Joeten Charitable Foundation and Bank of Hawaii have been key corporate sponsors over the years, but even a low profile car club like Exotic Minis has been donating to the Chapter for over seven years. We are grateful for everyone's support!" she added.

The Club 200 is the NMI Chapters signature fundraising dinner. It provides the financial means in which the Chapter can fulfill its humanitarian mission of helping those in need, particularly after a major natural disaster.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross NMI Chapter's Club 200 sponsor Bank of Hawaii

This year's event will feature a large raffle drawing with a grand prize of $15,000 and over 40 other prizes. There will also be a silent auction and a treasure chest promotion.

Tickets for the treasure chest will be $10 and offer a chance to open one of three chests that will include valuable prizes including a Kawasaki bush cutter. Please support the Red Cross here in the CNMI by buying your ticket today for this Saturday's event at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Call 234-3459 for more information or where to purchase tickets. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-11-005

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for its a Administrative and Operation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The specification may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-005, Lease of Office Space"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (CST) local time on **November 05, 2010**. Late submission will not be considered.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CST) local time on November 01, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

/s/ **ABE U. MALAE**
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Job Vacancy Announcement

Environment Health Safety Security Officer

JVA No. 11-001 **Opening Date 10/22/10**
One (1) Position **Closing Date: Until Filled**

This is an un-graded position as required per Stipulated Order Number One (p. 19-21), Civil Case Number 08-0051, *United States of America vs. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

Duties: The incumbent is under the immediate supervision of the Technical Manager for Oil (TMO) or under the immediate supervision of a separate reporting structure proposed in the staffing plan required by Paragraph 17 SO2. He/she is responsible for Environmental, Health, Safety and Security compliance at the CUC Facilities. The Environmental, Health, Safety and Security Officer ("EHSS Officer") shall be primarily responsible for assisting the TMO in overseeing all environmental assessment and cleanup projects, all oil spill prevention initiatives, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. The EHSS Officers shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with staff and contractors regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues. The EHSS OFFICER will have support the TMO in management and operations decisions for the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order. The EHSS OFFICER will be in charge of training, enforcement and in operational issues having to do with environmental, health, safety, and security compliance. The EHSS OFFICER further develops and executes programs to ensure effective identification and management of the EHSS risks posed by CUC's Operations and businesses, as well as seeking out opportunities to deliver both operational integrity and wider benefits to CUC via sustainability initiatives. The post holder is expected to enhance the management of risk in the CUC business stream and working with the Management team, use appropriate leadership processes and behaviors to mitigate risk. The role will encompass the implementation of EHSS programs including training, raising awareness, managing audits, reporting CUC EHSS compliance, providing technical expertise and support to CUC Management team as required. The EHSS Officer must be able to write, upgrade, certify, implement, and train CUC employees in any manual required by the Code of Federal Regulations in the conducting of CUC activities.

Location: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), ***Saipan***.
Salary: Un-graded, Unclassified
Contract: Two-year.

Position Requirement at Entry: Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science, industrial hygiene, or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations. Applicant must have an exceptional knowledge of U.S. Environmental laws and regulations pertaining to oil; knowledge and understanding of the contracting process. Good skills and experience working with regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard. The EHSS OFFICER must demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills; demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff in the realm of health, safety, security and environmental awareness; experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design, and construction. Further, the EHSS OFFICER should have experience with the following: oil, oily water, water sampling and testing, IATA certified to ship petroleum sample, oil storage, use transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statement of work, oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements. Further the EHSS OFFICER shall have experience in conduction various training seminars, and record keeping for training and federal compliance. All the above is SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TEST.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.
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Business

China's rapid growth slows further

BEIJING (AP)—China's rapid growth slowed in the latest quarter as Beijing steered its expansion to a more sustainable level, possibly cutting its contribution to a global recovery.

The world's second-largest economy grew 9.6 percent in the July-September quarter over a year earlier, official figures showed Thursday. That was down from the previous quarter's 10.3 percent but still by far the highest of any major economy.

The decline could dent a global recovery as China's appetite for iron ore, oil, factory machinery and other imports weakens. That might hurt the United States, Australia, Europe and other economies that are looking to relatively robust China to power exports.

AP

A Chinese man collecting recyclable materials rests on his tricycle in Beijing, China on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010.

"Short-term the slowdown means China will have less demand for goods from the rest of the world," said Alistair Thornton, China analyst for IHS Global Insight. "But long-term, the slowdown could be a benefit to the world economy because the Chinese economy cannot keep going at such a high pace and in such an unbalanced way."

The government said the cooling was in line with its efforts to moderate growth. Beijing's official growth target for the year is 8 percent, while the World Bank is forecasting a 9.5 percent expansion.

"The national economy kept moving toward the expected direction of macroeconomic control," the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement.

Politically sensitive inflation rose in September despite government efforts to control prices, climbing to 3.6 percent over a year earlier from August's 3.5 percent—well above the official target of 3 percent. The rise was driven by shortages of vegetables and some other food items, and analysts expect inflation to ease in coming months as supplies rebound.

China recovered quickly from the global crisis on a flood of stimulus spending and bank lending. Growth soared to 11.9 percent in the first three months of the year. But Chinese leaders worry growth overshot safe levels and are trying to cool a surge in housing costs and stock speculation.

The slowdown also was reflected in a sharp decline in China's explosive industrial growth.

Factory output measured by added value grew 13.5 percent in the latest quarter, down from the previous quarter's 15.9 percent and 19.6 percent in the first three months of the year.

G20 finance chiefs face tough task on currencies

GYEONGJU, South Korea (AP)—Global finance mandarins get another chance this week to defuse international currency tensions as a festering dispute over exchange rates overshadows debate about reforming the world economy.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 rich and emerging nations, along with key officials from international finance and lending organizations, meet Friday and Saturday in the South Korean city of Gyeongju. Their deputies meet Thursday.

The gathering comes just two weeks after they failed at a meeting in Washington to iron out differences that have led to fears the world could descend into a so-called currency war that causes another downturn.

In such a scenario, countries devalue their currencies to gain a competitive advantage over competitors in a less-than-robust world economy that has yet to fully recover from the effects of the global financial meltdown two years ago. Trade barriers are erected in response, hitting international commerce and sending the economic recovery into reverse.

The Gyeongju meeting also offers the last chance to calm such anxieties ahead of a summit of the group's leaders scheduled next month in Seoul.

David Cohen, head of Asian forecasting at Action Economics in Singapore, said the finance meeting represents a "real test" for the G-20 given the prominence it has assumed in leading the global economy.

"I think there's a lot of pressure on them," Cohen said. "I think they understand that it's in no country's interest to revert to a currency war, to all the protectionism that would accompany that."

Currencies, long a source of contention, face renewed focus amid broader strains in the global economy left over from the financial crisis.

China, the world's No. 2 economy, is under renewed pressure over its management of the yuan, which the U.S., the European Union and Japan say is undervalued, giving its exporters an unfair competitive advantage.

The broad weakening of the dollar amid poor prospects for the U.S. economy and the outlook for possible further monetary easing by the Federal Reserve is another factor adding to the strain.

And so-called hot money investment flows into emerging countries in search of higher yields than can be fetched in the developed world have turned up the heat on those currencies, particularly in Asian nations such as South Korea.

Some governments as a result have tried to stem currency appreciation through measures including direct intervention in markets or by imposing controls on capital or taxes on foreign investment.

Fed survey points to uneven growth across US

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy grew unevenly in early fall, with more than half the regions of the country expanding modestly while others struggled to grow.

A survey by the Federal Reserve released Wednesday found that seven of the Fed's 12 regions reported moderate improvements in business activity. Three regions—Philadelphia, Richmond and Cleveland—described economic activity as mixed or steady. Only two regions—Atlanta and Dallas—suggested economic growth was slow.

The survey indicated that the economy isn't weakening but is growing too sluggishly to drive down high unemployment, now at 9.6 percent. The jobless rate has been at or above 9.5 percent for more than a year.

"Hiring remains limited, with many firms reluctant to add to permanent payrolls given economic softness," the Fed survey concluded.

High unemployment is one of the Fed's biggest concerns. That's why Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are widely expected to launch a new program at their Nov. 2-3 meeting to bolster the economy. The Fed is expected to buy Treasury bonds in a bid to drive down interest rates on mortgages, corporate loans and other debt. The hope is that cheaper credit will persuade Americans to increase spending, which would help the economy grow and lead companies to hire more workers.

The Fed's survey, known as the Beige Book, will figure into Fed policymakers' discussions at the November meeting about how the economy is faring.

The region-by-region survey is based on information collected from the Fed's 12 regional banks on or before Oct. 8. It provides a more intimate look at the overall economy than broad statistics.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fox, Cablevision dispute stretches into 5th day

NEW YORK (AP)—Some 3 million cable TV subscribers in the New York area were without Fox programming for a fifth day. The dispute over how much Cablevision will pay to carry the network on its lineup has led to the highest-profile blackout over broadcast fees in years. It has left Cablevision subscribers without access to New York Giants games and the medical drama "House." Without a deal Wednesday afternoon, subscribers were poised to miss the fourth National League Championship Series game between the San Francisco Giants and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Oil falls to near $82 as US dollar strengthens

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $82 a barrel Thursday in Asia as a stronger U.S. currency weighed on crude by making dollar-based commodities more expensive for investors with other currencies. Benchmark oil for December delivery was down 41 cents to $82.13 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose $1.38 to settle at $82.54 on Wednesday.

Wells Fargo profit rises as loan defaults ease

NEW YORK (AP)—Wells Fargo & Co. reported a 19 percent increase in its third-quarter income Wednesday as losses from bad loans declined, a hopeful sign that American businesses and consumers are becoming more financially stable. The San Francisco-based bank earned $3.15 billion, or 60 cents per share, in the three months ending in September, beating analysts' expectations by 5 cents per share. The bank earned $2.64 billion, or 56 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier. Fewer of Wells Fargo's customers defaulted on loans, and fewer were late in payments on their mortgage and credit cards. It was a common theme with other large U.S. banks that have reported results so far this quarter: JPMorgan Chase &Co., Bank of America Corp., and Citigroup Inc. The banks' results suggested that the suffering has started to subside for Americans struggling through the longest recession since the 1930s

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,107.97	1,178.17	2,457.39
129.35	12.27	20.44
1.18%	1.05%	0.84%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0190	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7648	Philippine Peso	43.2950
British Pound	0.6333	Indian Rupee	44.4150	Singapore Dollar	1.3024
Canadian Dollar	1.0259	Indonesian Rupiah	8,932.5	South Korean Won	1,129.5
Chinese Yuan	6.6480	Japanese Yen	81.1850	Swiss Franc	0.9665
Euro	0.7190	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1135	Taiwan Dollar	30.8030
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3353	Thailand Baht	29.8750

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Nation

Obama's 4-day campaign swing is his longest yet

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—President Barack Obama urged Oregon Democrats on Wednesday night to "defy the conventional wisdom" and vote to send John Kitzhaber back to the governor's office on Nov. 2.

Obama tried to rally the troops on the West Coast less than two weeks before an election that will determine control of Congress for the next two years. But his message was meant for Democrats around the country too.

"This election isn't about anger, it's not about fear. This election is a choice and the stakes could not be higher," the president said, reinforcing his campaign message about where Republican leadership would take the country.

Obama charged that the GOP would repeal new health care changes designed to keep insurers from denying coverage to the sick, and cancel new rules to keep credit card companies from slapping people with hidden fees.

"We have tried that before and we're not going back," he said.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks during a rally for Washington Gubernatorial candidate John Kitzhaber at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010.

Kitzhaber, a doctor who occupied the governor's office from 1995-2002, is in a tight race against Republican Chris Dudley, a former NBA player and a political rookie.

Obama said the former governor is the only candidate "that's actually delivered change."

"Here is a guy who's already done the job and done it well," he said.

But the fact that Obama flew to Oregon so late in the campaign to stump for Kitzhaber, long considered one of the state's most popular politicians, is a sign of how beleaguered Democrats are this year—including Obama.

Obama has suffered from a presidency weighed down by a sluggish economy, high unemployment, a poor housing market, two wars and a public largely disapproving of his performance in office.

Two years ago, presidential candidate Obama drew 75,000 people to a riverfront park rally in Portland, including 15,000 who couldn't get in.

But political organizers weren't expecting such a sizable crowd for Obama's return Wednesday night, his first visit here since the campaign.

The goal was for a far more modest showing of 5,000 people at the convention center, which holds twice that number. The convention floor appeared about three-fourths full, with tightly packed crowds in front and behind the stage where Obama spoke and a wide open space behind the press section in the rear.

Oregon was the first stop on Obama's longest campaign swing of the season, a four-day, five-state blitz of fundraisers and rallies that also will take him to Washington state, California, Nevada and Minnesota.

Obama is scheduled to campaign separately with Sens. Patty Murray of Washington and Barbara Boxer of California, plus Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada - Senate allies also in tight contests against their Republican challengers.

Obama already has campaigned with each senator, sometimes more than once. But he made the 3,000-mile return trip to help keep them and a Democratic majority in the Senate. It's what he needs to boost his agenda in Congress in the final two years of his term.

Vice President Joe Biden, first lady Michelle Obama and Biden's wife, Jill, are doing their part too in an all-hands-on-deck effort by a White House fully aware of the stakes for Obama should any, or all, of these Democrats fail to return to the Senate in January.

Biden campaigned this week with Murray, Boxer and Reid. Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Biden plan joint appearances next week in California and Seattle for Boxer and Murray.

Besides Kitzhaber, Obama plans to stump for gubernatorial candidates Jerry Brown in California and Mark Dayton in Minnesota.

Governors can help turn out the vote in presidential election years. They also can help draw new congressional districts, a once-a-decade process that gets under way next year following the 2010 census.

Obama has spent the week reaching out to core Democratic constituencies. He held a telephone conference call with reporters for African-American newspapers and invited Spanish-language journalists to the White House for a round-table discussion.

He'll reach out to women Thursday in Seattle, discussing women and the economy with a female-only audience.

GOP leader hopes to work with Obama on some issues

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate's top Republican says President Barack Obama and a more-Republican Congress could join to pass laws on trade and spending policy and make changes to the health care overhaul if the administration listens to voters on Election Day.

"I can't believe he's going to continue to ignore the wishes of the American people if his party has a very bad day Nov. 2," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "If he pivots and wants to work with us, obviously I'd be happy to talk to him."

White House spokesman Bill Burton said Obama "is eager to work with anyone, Republican or Democrat, who wants to work together to meet the challenges facing our country.

"After two years of partisan posturing and parliamentary roadblocks, it would be a welcome change if Sen. McConnell were to embrace the politics of cooperation and problem-solving," Burton added. Given the heated campaign trail rhetoric by Republican candidates vowing to overturn the health care law, for example, "we'll wait and see."

The two sides may have little choice but to work together on key issues in the new session of Congress that opens in January. Republicans are expected to gain seats in the House and Senate, if not overturn the Democratic majority, just as Obama's 2012 re-election campaign effectively begins.

Speaking from his home in Louisville, Ky., McConnell said there are several areas of agreement that already exist between congressional Republicans and Obama that, theoretically, could pass quickly.

Those issues, he said, include an arcane tax reporting law on businesses that's part of the unpopular health care overhaul. Even Obama wants the so-called 1099 provision changed so that businesses are not overburdened with paperwork.

McConnell also suggested that the two sides could write into law trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama in an effort to create jobs.

Appeals court keeps military gay policy for now

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court on Wednesday temporarily granted the U.S. government's request for a freeze on a judge's order requiring the military to allow openly gay troops.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals instructed lawyers for the gay rights group that brought the lawsuit successfully challenging the "don't ask, don't tell" policy to file arguments in response by Monday.

The judges would then decide whether to extend the temporary stay while it considers the government's appeal of U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips' ruling that the policy was unconstitutional.

It was unclear what effect the temporary freeze would have on the Pentagon, which has already informed recruiters to accept openly gay recruits and has suspended discharge proceedings for gay service members.

Cynthia Smith, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said "for the reasons stated in the government's submission, we believe a stay is appropriate."

She declined to say whether the Defense Department would roll back its guidance to military lawyers and recruiters that they must abide by last week's injunction. It has been assumed, however, that the Pentagon would revert to its previous policy of "don't ask, don't tell" if a stay were to be granted throughout the appeals process.

Alisa Finelli, a spokesperson for the Justice Department, declined to comment Wednesday. There was no immediate comment from the White House.

A lawyer for the Log Cabin Republicans said the group was disappointed, but called it a minor setback.

"We didn't come this far to quit now, and we expect that once the Ninth Circuit has received and considered full briefing on the government's application for a stay, it will deny that application," Dan Woods said, of White & Case.

The 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" rule says gays may serve but only if they keep secret their sexual orientation.

Government lawyers argue that striking down the policy and ordering the Pentagon to immediately allow openly gay service members could harm troop morale and unit cohesion when the military is fighting two wars.

President Barack Obama says he supports repeal of the policy, but only after careful review and an act of Congress.

The brief order was signed by the three 9th Circuit judges hearing emergency motions this month: Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain and Stephen S. Trott, who were appointed by President Ronald Reagan, and William A. Fletcher, an appointee of President Bill Clinton.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: Would-be bomber said he'd die for bin Laden

DALLAS (AP)—Before he pushed the button that he hoped would blow up a 60-story office tower and kill thousands of people, Hosam Smadi did two things that still bother FBI officials 13 months later. An undercover agent posing as an al-Qaida terrorist offered Smadi ear plugs. He declined, saying he wanted to hear the explosion. Then he used his cell phone to secure a ghastly souvenir—a final picture of the building before it blew. The inside story of the investigation, compiled from court documents and interviews with FBI officials in Dallas, is a tale of how the FBI stayed ahead of the would-be terrorist, giving him a decoy bomb and preventing him from harming anyone.

Stepmom of missing NC girl deemed flight risk

NEWTON, N.C. (AP)—A judge deemed the stepmother of a missing 10-year-old girl a flight risk and raised her bond Wednesday after the woman's grown daughter testfied that she's carrying on an online relationship with a man in England who was sending her thousands of dollars. While the bond hearing unfolded, dozens of investigators searched a nearby North Carolina landfill for key evidence in the disappearance of Zahra Clare Baker, but police said they don't expect to find the girl's body there. Catawba County District Judge Robert Mullinax Jr. said there were "disturbing and unsettling allegations" in the case as he increased Elisa Baker's bond from $40,000 to $65,000. Defense attorneys had asked him to lower bond to $10,000, which they said fits legal guidelines for her charge of obstructing justice.

Sheriff: 5 hurt as car plows into Calif school bus

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A driver on a freeway intentionally crashed head-on into a school bus Wednesday, leaving five three high-school students and both drivers with minor injuries, authorities said. The 44-year-old man drove the wrong way on an off-ramp to State Route 60 in Glen Avon and plowed into the bus carrying seven students, Riverside County sheriff's Sgt. Joe Borja said. The man was seen earlier trying to climb a fence on an overpass of the freeway, and when that failed he got into his vehicle and crashed into the bus, Borja said. His name has not been released.

Asia

Southern China braces for deadly typhoon

HONG KONG (AP)—Residents stockpiled food and ships were ordered to dock as southern China braced for a typhoon Thursday that has already lashed the northern Philippines amid floods that have killed more than 70 people across Asia.

Typhoon Megi packed winds of 140 miles per hour (225 kilometers per hour) when it struck the Philippines on Monday. Philippine officials reported 20 deaths, including several people who drowned after being pinned by fallen trees. The storm damaged thousands of homes and flooded vast areas of rice and corn fields.

Late Wednesday, Megi was about 350 miles (550 kilometers) southeast of the southern financial hub of Hong Kong and expected to eventually hit the southern Chinese coast, the Hong Kong Observatory said on its website.

The storm's winds have weakened to 110 mph (175 kph), but are expected to build strength over the next two days before losing steam again Saturday, when the typhoon is projected to make landfall in China's Guangdong province, the observatory said.

In Guangdong, officials have ordered all fishing boats back to shore, put the provincial flood control headquarters on alert and warned that reservoirs should be watched, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday. In the southern island province of Hainan, residents rushed to supermarkets to stock up on food, vegetables and bottled water, Xinhua said.

In Hong Kong, the mood was calmer in the densely populated city of 7 million whose infrastructure has traditionally held up well against the annual summer barrage of typhoons. Still, the Hong Kong Observatory urged residents to make sure their windows could be properly bolted, avoid the coastline and refrain from water sports. It also ordered small vessels to return to shore.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said Thursday that Typhoon Megi was unlikely to make landfall on the island but warned residents in southern and eastern Taiwan to brace for heavy rains and landslides.

AP

A boat sails past docked ships at a port in Haikou, in south China's Hainan province, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US official says China's Hu will visit in January

BEIJING (AP)—China's President Hu Jintao is scheduled to visit the United States in January, a senior U.S. official said Thursday, in the latest sign that a thaw in relations between the two countries is gathering momentum. The confirmation from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, who met with Chinese officials in Beijing this week, is the first from either side that the planned trip will take place. Holder declined to give a specific date or other details. Relations between the countries plunged earlier this year over disagreements about everything from trade policy to arms sales to Taiwan, but since the summer both sides have worked to smooth over the problems and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has accepted an invitation to visit Beijing next year.

Bomb on bus in Philippines kills 7, wounds 9

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A bomb ripped through a passenger bus in the restive southern Philippines on Thursday, killing at least seven people and wounding nine others. The bus was traveling with more than 50 passengers when the powerful blast shook the rear part of the vehicle from the overhead compartment, police Chief Superintendent Gil Meneses said. The force of the blast was so strong it decapitated two of the victims, he said. The wounded were brought to hospitals near Matalam township in North Cotabato province. Police and army units interviewed survivors and combed through the twisted metal trying to extract the injured, Meneses said.

Haze pollution forces Malaysia school closures

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—An education official says more than 200 schools in southern Malaysia have been ordered closed after a drop in air quality due to haze from fires in Indonesia. Mohamad Adha Shah Mohamad Basir says the schools in Muar district were told to shut Thursday. Department of Environment readings showed pollution levels in the district in southern Johor state were potentially hazardous earlier this week. Air quality was moderate Thursday after morning rains.

Karachi violence death toll rises to 52 in 4 days

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—The death toll from four days of violence sparked by a contentious local election in Pakistan's largest city rose to 52 on Wednesday when at least one person was shot and killed despite efforts to restore order.

Security forces patrolled the southern city of Karachi to prevent fresh violence and in many neighborhoods, businesses shut down while public transportation was scarce.

"The atmosphere of terror is everywhere," said local resident Mohammad Sadiq. "People are scared to come out of their houses."

Many of the slayings in Karachi—including the ones that started Saturday evening—have been linked to gangs allegedly controlled by political parties. This wave of violence coincided with Sunday's election to replace a provincial lawmaker killed in August.

Karachi, a port city of about 16 million, has a long history of political, ethnic and religious strife. But this year has been exceptionally bloody. The city has seen around 300 "targeted killings," mostly among the gangs, since June. That is roughly twice the number for all of 2009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MICHAEL S. KATSUREN
is no longer connected with
OLEAI'S BEACH BAR & GRILL.
Any transactions made by him on behalf of the company will not be accepted.

William L. Aguon and
Lillian S. Aguon
P.O. Box 505681
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 288-9969

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0531
LYNAESHA LILRENE A. TENORIO, Minor Child,	NOTICE OF HEARING
By:	
WILLIAM L. AGUON and LILLIAN S. AGUON, Petitioners.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 15, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo

DATED this 19th day of October 2010.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/
By Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG, Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 09-0407** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the Complaint for Foreclosure by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, a default will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Petition, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 25th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes – August 12, 2010 and September 10, 2010

II. Public Comments

III. Committee Reports
1. Finance
2. Personnel
3. Ad Hoc Reports

IV. Old Business

V. New Business
1. FY 2011 Expenditure Plan
2. KBS TV- Go! Dream Team – Season 2

VI. Executive Session
1. Tourism Master Plan
2. Korea Representation Services proposals

VII. Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Acting Chair, MVA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Change Over Meeting on October 28, 2010 (Thursday) from 9:00am-11:00am, Taga Conference Room, Aqua Resort, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Welcome & Introduction
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes
   a. Minutes of September 9, 2010 Regular Meeting
   b. Minutes of September 29, 2010 Special Meeting

II. Public Comments
III. Council Changeover
1. Appreciation to Outgoing Council Members for SY 09-10
2. Welcome & Introduction of New Council Members for SY 10-11

IV. New Business
1. Election of Officers:
   a. Chairperson
   b. Vice Chair
   c. Secretary
   d. Treasurer
2. Recommendations for Community Members
3. Review of Council Standing Committees
4. Schedule of Governance Training

V. Executive Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8–41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761; several days notice is required.

/s/ Mr. Gene Weaver
Chairperson

World

Iran, Venezuela leaders seek 'new world order'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The leaders of Iran and Venezuela hailed what they called their strong strategic relationship on Wednesday, saying they are united in efforts to establish a "new world order" that will eliminate Western dominance over global affairs.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and visiting Venezuelan counterpart, Hugo Chavez, watched as officials from both countries signed 11 agreements promoting cooperation in areas including oil, natural gas, textiles, trade and public housing.

Among the agreements, Venezuela's state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA said the South American country was forming a joint shipping venture with Iran to aid in delivering Venezuelan crude oil to Europe and Asia. It said in a statement that the agreement for a joint venture also would help supply Iran "due to its limited refining capacity." Both presidents denounced U.S. "imperialism" and said their opponents will not be able to impede cooperation between Iran and Venezuela.

Iran's state TV quoted both Ahmadinejad and Chavez as calling their relationship a "strategic alliance" that would eliminate the current global order.

"Iran and Venezuela are united to establish a new world order based on humanity and justice," Ahmadinejad said, repeating his predictions that those who today seek "world domination are on the verge of collapse."

Chavez said this is a time of "great threats" that make its necessary to swiftly "consolidate strategic alliances in political, economic, technological, energy and social areas," according to the state-run Venezuelan News Agency.

Details of the latest accords were not released, and Chavez said some agreements went beyond those put on paper. He said a Venezuelan delegation will soon travel to Iran to follow up on the agreements.

Iran has become the closest Middle East ally to Chavez's government as the left-leaning leader has sought to build international alliances to counter what he sees as U.S. economic and political dominance.

WORLD BRIEFS

Rioters rampage, protesters block French airports

PARIS (AP)—Workers opposed to a higher retirement age blocked roads to airports around France on Wednesday, leaving passengers in Paris dragging suitcases on foot along an emergency breakdown lane. Outside the capital, hooded youths smashed store windows amid clouds of tear gas. Riot police in black body armor forced striking workers away from blocked fuel depots in western France, restoring gasoline to areas where pumps were dry after weeks of protests over the government proposal raising the age from 60 to 62. Riot officers in the Paris suburb of Nanterre and the southeastern city of Lyon sprayed tear gas but appeared unable to stop the violence. Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said both the strikes and the violence were taking an economic toll.

Gunbattles stir panic in 2 Mexican border cities

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP)—Mexican soldiers battled gunmen in two cities across the border from Texas on Wednesday, prompting panicked parents to pull children from school and factories to warn workers to stay inside. Assailants in a third city threw a grenade at an army barracks. The U.S. Consulate in Nuevo Laredo warned American citizens to stay indoors. The statement said there were reports of drug gangs blocking at least one intersection near the consulate in the city across from Laredo, Texas. The local city government and witnesses reported several more blockades—a new tactic that has emerged in northeastern Mexico, where violence has soared this year amid a split between the Gulf and Zetas drug gangs.

US soldier charged with killing troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—An American soldier was charged Wednesday with killing two fellow U.S. troops and wounding a third after an argument last month in a former Iraqi insurgent stronghold turned deadly. Army Spc. Neftaly Platero was charged with two counts of murder and one count of attempted murder in a Sept. 23 shooting in Fallujah, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad. A statement issued late Wednesday by the U.S. military in Baghdad described the killings as premeditated but offered no other details. Earlier, a U.S. military spokesman said Platero was accused of shooting the three soldiers after a verbal altercation. The spokesman, Col. Barry Johnson, did not know what the argument was about.

300 march over proposed SAfrican press law

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A South African journalist arrested after writing about alleged police corruption said Tuesday a proposed media bill could transform a country known for being among Africa's most free and transparent to one more like autocratic Zimbabwe. Mzilikazi wa Afrika, who is no longer facing charges, spoke to The Associated Press at a protest of more than 300 people marching against the government's media proposals. "We are going back to apartheid and pushing South Africa to the same level as Zimbabwe," wa Afrika said.

THOMAS CAMACHO MARATITA

Fondly known as "Tommy"
December 23, 1932 – October 15, 2010

Was called to eternal home by our Lord at the age of 77.

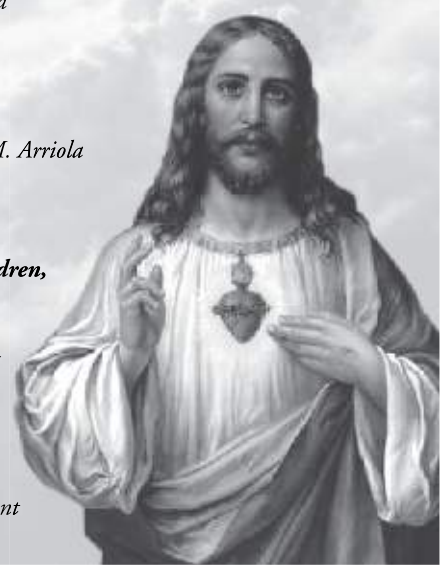
Predeceased by:
Wife: *Magdalena Taisakan Nakatsukasa Maratita*
Sons: *Herman T. Nakatsukasa, Juan N. Maratita, Johannes N. Maratita, Jeffrey N. Maratita*
Daughter: *Remedio N. Basa*
Grandchildren: *Herman N. Maratita, Thomas Maratita*
Great-Grandchildren: *Thomas Maratita, Jr., Kyle DLG. Basa, Anastacia C. Basa*
Parents: *Robert Matantaotao & Brigida Camacho Maratita*
Parents-in-Law: *Johannes Koyama & Consuelo Taisakan Nakatsukasa*
Brother: *Fermin C. Maratita*
Sister: *Ijulinda C. Maratita*
Sister/Brother-in-Laws: *David T. Aldan, Antonio A. Ayuyu, Pedro T. Nakatsukasa, Francisco SM. Arriola, Vicente D. Magofna, Catalina M. Maratita*

Survived by his loving:
Children: *†Remedio N./Francisco S. Basa (Raymond/Francine, Melvin/Jolene, Annette, Frankie/Ann)*
Brigida N. Maratita (Bertha/Joaquin, †Thomas/Stephanie, Eldin/Susan)
Rufino N./Tina N. Maratita (Rufino Jr./Stephanie, †Herman, Magdalena)
Robert N. Maratita
Eusebio N./Virginia Maratita (Tanner)
Rosalina M./Jose M. Taga (Madalene, Elmer/Joyce, Frances/Vicente)
Consuelo M./Eddie Reyes (Madelaine/†Emery, Eddie Jr./Jodie, Pedro)
Diego N. Maratita
Edwina N. Maratita
Kuleta M./Joe Vince Taitano (Johannes, Colleen, Joe Jr.)
†Jeffrey N. Maratita/Julie Dela Rosa (David, Jerry, Tzarina, Thaddeus, Jiana)

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses: *Lourdes M./†Antonio Ayuyu*
†Fermin C./Margarita Maratita
Virginia M./Juan Manglona
Rufino C. Maratita/Claudia Masga
Rosalina M./†Vicente D. Magofna
Robert C./†Catalina Maratita

Sister/Brother-in-laws/Spouses:
Ana T. Nakatsukasa/†Francisco SM. Arriola
†Pedro T./Remedio L. Nakatsukasa
Maria N./†David T. Aldan

Additionally survived by numerous Great-Grandchildren, Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, and Cousins.



Mass is prayed at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. at San Antonio Church. On Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center mortuary to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Interment Service will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetary.

Death & Funeral Announcement

ROSA PETER AFABLE

"Chai"

November 29, 1947 – October 20, 2010

In her new life she now joins her:
Spouses: †Esteban M. Mettao
†Rolando A. Afable
Children: †Donna P. Mettao
†Dean P. Mettao
†Matthew P. Mettao
†Anthony P. Afable
Parents: †Cecilia Somorang /†Edward Malighar Peter
Brother: †Isidro/†Alfredo/†Odorico/†Jesus
Sister: †Prepedigna P. Kileleman
Brothers-in-law: †Miquel I. Kileleman
†Esteban I. Limes

Her peaceful memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: Julita P. Mettao/Darius Besong (Aziz Julian (AJ), Darcie, Darlene, Darius Jr., Jued, Jurie, Jarius, Darren)
Marvin P. Mettao/Naruko L. Simi (Natyrose, Joshua, Nadine, Brittany, Marvin)
Daniel P. Mettao/Joanne Pangelinan (Danielle, Milagro)
Steve P. Mettao Jr./Evelyn A. Castro (Kaylani, Roscelia)
Downna M./Ories A. Douglas (Odeyssa, Ories Anthony, Bobby Lee, Dana, Darryl, Orian)
Serene M./George N. Salas (Bradley, Daniel, Georgio)
†Dean P. Mettao (Dean J. S. Mettao)
Greg P. Mettao/Tina P. Quichocho (Gracialyn, Tianna, Trelawnie, Graciani, Gregory, Trevor, Tanika)
Arlene P. Mettao/Arcy Moncrief (Arvin, Elvin Jr., Serenalyn)
Edward P. Mettao
Christina A. /Tim Kathireson (Anishta, Anastasha, Alana, Anthony)
Roberto P. Afable
Francisco P. Afable

Great Grandson: Nathaniel P. Mettao

Brothers/Sisters & In-Laws: David K./Malua T. Peter; Angelina P. Limes; Rufina P./Greg Miles; Edwardo K./Melody L. Peter; Emerenciana (Emi) P./George Palican; Rosa L. Peter/Calistro K. Ruben

Reared Children: John Tedtaotao, Lee Roy P. Limes, Thelma P. Limes/Joseph Viloria

Rosary is being prayed nightly at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Julie and Darius in Dandan, Birada Street.

On Sunday, October 24, 2010, 3:00 p.m., our beloved will be escorted to Dandan for wake services followed by Rosary and Responso at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, October 25, 2010, she will be escorted to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9:30 a.m. The Eucharistic Celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by the interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are most treasured.

The Family

Off the Wall

World's longest cat—Stewie—measures 4 feet

RENO, Nev. (AP)—The world's longest cat measures more than 4 feet, stealing the record from another Maine Coone. The Reno Gazette-Journal reported that 5-year-old Stewie was certified as the new Guinness World Record holder after measuring 48 1/2 inches from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail bone. That's a little more than 4 feet long.

The record was previously held by another Maine Coon that measured 48 inches.

Stewie's owners, Robin Hendrickson and Erik Brandsness, say they decided to try for the record after hearing countless people say they were amazed by Stewie's length.

Hendrickson said Maine Coons are known as "the gentle giants" of the cat world.

AP

In this photo taken July 1, 2009, Robin Henderson stretches out her Maine Coon cat Stewie outside of her home in Reno, Nev.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Escaped ape attacks Kansas City police car

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A 300-pound chimpanzee that broke free from its chains has been captured after briefly wandering around a Kansas City neighborhood and smashing out the window of a police car. Police Capt. Rich Lockhart tells The Kansas City Star the department got a call about noon Tuesday that a primate was on the loose a few miles from the Kansas City Zoo. Lockhart says the ape was actually a pet that escaped from its chains. Lockhart says efforts to shoot the animal, named Sueko, with a tranquilizer dart failed. The chimp climbed on a patrol car and struck the passenger-side window with its fist before running off. Its owner was eventually able to coax it into a cage. Lockhart says the owner has been cited for having a dangerous animal within city limits.

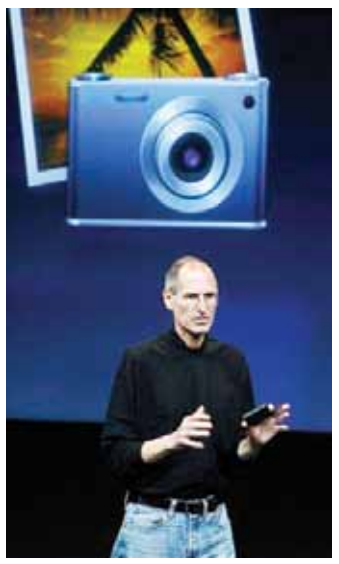
Man accused of robbing same Indiana bank 4 times

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—Authorities have arrested a man who they believe robbed the same South Bend bank branch four times since late August. Federal prosecutors allege that 42-year-old William Easley robbed the 1st Source Bank on Aug. 23, Sept. 10, Oct. 5 and Wednesday, taking about $14,000 in all. The South Bend Tribune reported Easley surrendered at the St. Joseph County Jail early Saturday. A federal magistrate on Monday ordered him jailed until a preliminary hearing Thursday. Authorities said that in each robbery the man entered the bank on the city's east side, brandishing what appeared to be a handgun. The robber wore a bandanna over his face, but tellers believed it was the same person. A message seeking comment was left for Easley's defense attorney.

Police: Denim thief left wallet in dressing room

GALLATIN, Tenn. (AP)—Police in Tennessee say it wasn't too difficult to find a man accused of walking out of a Walmart store wearing stolen jeans. He left his old denim behind - along with his wallet. Officers in Gallatin said 20-year-old Dustin Matthew Marshall tried on the jeans and left without paying for them, but employees found his old jeans and wallet in a dressing room. WTVF-TV reported police caught up with Marshall and a 19-year-old woman who was with him on Saturday night after a couple ducked out of a Longhorn Steakhouse without paying their bill. A search of their home turned up evidence of other crimes. Marshall and his companion were booked into the Sumner County Jail on charges of theft, burglary and other counts. Court officials said Tuesday that neither has an attorney.

Science & Technology



AP

Apple CEO Steve Jobs talks about the new Apple iPhoto at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010.

Apple looks to iPhone, iPad for Mac inspiration

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple's iPhone and iPads have been such hits that the company is now looking for ways to bring some of their cachet to its laptops and desktops.

Apple Inc. offered glimpses on Wednesday of an updated Mac operating system, called Mac OS X Lion. The company highlighted features that borrow from the lighter-weight iOS that runs on its mobile gadgets.

The company also unveiled two new versions of its MacBook Air ultralight laptops.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs drew laughs when he introduced the new models by saying, "We asked ourselves: What would happen if a MacBook and an iPad hooked up?"

Lion—Apple uses names of big cats to differentiate between versions—is expected to arrive next summer. Lion will include a built-in store selling Mac software, similar to the iTunes store that sells apps for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch.

Those devices have been successful in part because of the tens of thousands of games and other programs available as free or paid downloads in the app store. Apple may be looking to a Mac app store to boost interest in its computers, which make up a tiny but growing percentage of the personal computer market. In the second quarter, Macs accounted for about 4 percent of PC shipments worldwide, according to the research group IDC.

Apple plans to vet Mac programs before they'll be sold in the store. Software developers will be able to submit apps for review starting in November, and the Mac store will be open for business in the next 90 days.

Lion also mimics the iPhone and iPad user interface in a few ways. Mac users will be able to move from the main desktop to a "dashboard," or screen with a clock, weather report, calculator and other widgets, by swiping a multitouch mouse or trackpad.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Juana Palacios Santos

"ANNING/JUANET"

April 08, 1959 - October 16, 2010
of Capitol Hill, Saipan was called home by
Our Heavenly Father at the age of 51.

In her new life, Juanet will be met at the gate of heaven by her:
Father: *Francisco Camacho Palacios*
Father-in-law: *Simeon Masga Santos*

Juanet's love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:
Husband: *Eugene (Gene) Apatang Santos*
Sons: *Gene Rodney P. Santos & Garridan P. Santos*
Daughter: *Julene P. Santos & John Del Rosario*
Mother: *Raimunda Tudela Palacios*
Mother-in-law: *Dolores Apatang Santos*
Sisters, Brothers-in-Law, Nieces & Nephews, Grand-nieces & Grandnephews
Sisters-in-law: *Francisca S./Manases M. Barcinas (Children/Grandchildren) WA*
Maria S./Joseph N. Castro (Children/Grandchildren) WA
Representative Teresita A. Santos (†Son) Rota
Cathy S. Brown (Sons) VA
Maryann S./Francisco B. Songsong (Children/Grandchildren) Guam
Brothers-in-law: *Richard A. Santos/Christina Poll (Son) WA*
Mateo A./Rosita A. Santos (Children/Grandchildren) Rota
James A./Joaquina V. Santos (Children) Saipan
Paul A. Santos (Children) AR
Simeon A./Annabelle A. Santos (Children) ORE
David A./Mina Santos (Son) Rota
Joseph Brain/Patricia S. Santos (Children) Rota
Special Friend/Niece:
Becky Manglona Taisague TX
Monica Arakaki HI

She will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, goddaughters, godsons, & friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m on Tuesday, October 26th at Mount Carmel Cathedral, in Chalan Kanoa. Interment service will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where we will bid her farewell and a peaceful rest.

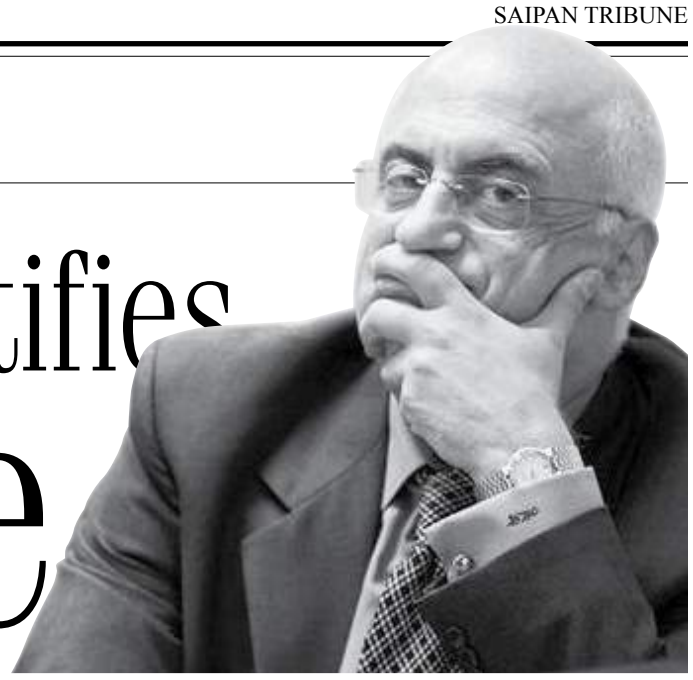
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You,

Eugene (Gene) Apatang Santos
Children & Family

Saint Philomena, Powerful Wonder-Worker Patroness and Protectress of the Living Rosary, PRAY FOR US!

Life & Style

Octomom's fertility doc testifies to save license



AP

Fertility specialist Dr. Michael Kamrava prepares for a hearing before the California Board of Medical Examiners on possible suspension or revocation of his medical license, in Los Angeles Monday, Oct. 18, 2010.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The fertility doctor whose in vitro treatments gave Nadya Suleman her octuplets tearfully began testimony Wednesday as he defended his methods in the fight to keep his medical license.

Dr. Michael Kamrava appeared shaken after being sworn in for the Medical Board of California's licensing hearing in downtown Los Angeles. He stammered and went silent on the stand before describing his emigration from his native Iran to the United States in 1968, at age 16.

The Beverly Hills doctor detailed his life decades before he helped Suleman have octuplets and six other children through in vitro fertilization.

"My family background is Jewish, and that was one of the reasons I came here," Kamrava said before stopping to wipe away tears.

The state licensing agency alleges that Kamrava was negligent in the treatment of Suleman and two other patients, and is seeking to revoke or suspend his license.

Kamrava regained his composure once he began delving into his educational background and the evolving science of fertility medicine through the course of his career.

Kamrava said Suleman first came to him in 1997 and was already taking hormones to increase her chances for becoming pregnant.

She was "very desirous" of having children, and the then-childless woman who is now known as "Octomom" told him that she'd been trying to become pregnant for four years and had suffered a miscarriage, said Kamrava.

"I'm going to have 10 kids, I just want to have large family," Kamrava recalled Suleman saying in their first meeting.

Early on, under Kamrava's recommendation, Suleman underwent artificial insemination because it was a cheaper and less invasive, but her ovaries were unresponsive and her embryos were of low quality, so the procedure didn't take, he said.

In hearings this week, an expert witness for the state testified that Suleman's medical records show Kamrava implanted 12 embryos in the pregnancy that gave Suleman the eight babies. National guidelines recommend no more than two embryos for a woman her age.

In less than eight years, Kamrava repeatedly performed in vitro fertilization for Suleman, implanting her with 60 fresh embryos that resulted in 14 children.

"It is not just the numbers, the quality of the embryos is extremely important," Kamrava repeatedly said throughout Wednesday's testimony.

Though he implanted many embryos for each pregnancy, Kamrava said his goal was always to have "singletons," or single-baby pregnancies.

There are health risks associated with crowding in a mother's uterus that could endanger the mother and result in premature birth or other ailments for the babies.

Suleman is identified only as N.S. in the medical board's documents and hearings but has previously identified Kamrava as her doctor. The documents also identify N.S. as the mother of octuplets, and Nadya Suleman is the mother of the world's only living full set of octuplets.

Witness Dr. Suraj Achar earlier testified that the doctor was very remorseful for his treatment of Suleman. Achar visited Kamrava's office once to assess his record-keeping at the request of the fertility doctor's lawyer.

In their only meeting, Kamrava said he regretted the outcome of Suleman's pregnancy and that they discussed his strategies to reduce multiple gestation with future patients, according to Achar.

In early testimony, Kamrava detailed his professional experience, including a stint at the University of California Los Angeles' obstetrics and gynecology department, saying he "was privileged to be accepted to the staff" for more than 20 years.

A spokeswoman for the university said Kamrava was part of the "department's unpaid, voluntary teaching staff from June 1, 1984, through Dec. 31, 2008."

The octuplets' birth in January 2009 was hailed by many as a miracle until details of Suleman's personal life became public, and concern grew for the safety of her 14 children.

Before the octuplets were born, the unemployed and divorced Suleman and her children lived with her mother, relying on food stamps, school loans, workers compensation and disability payments for her two autistic children to get by.

More recently, Suleman has tried to make a living by selling pictures and gossip items about herself to the tabloid media, but she struggles to pay rent and is facing a $450,000 balloon payment on her La Habra home.

Kamrava is also accused of failing to refer Suleman for a mental health consultation when she repeatedly sought fertility treatment.

NZ may lose Hobbit filming to offshore location

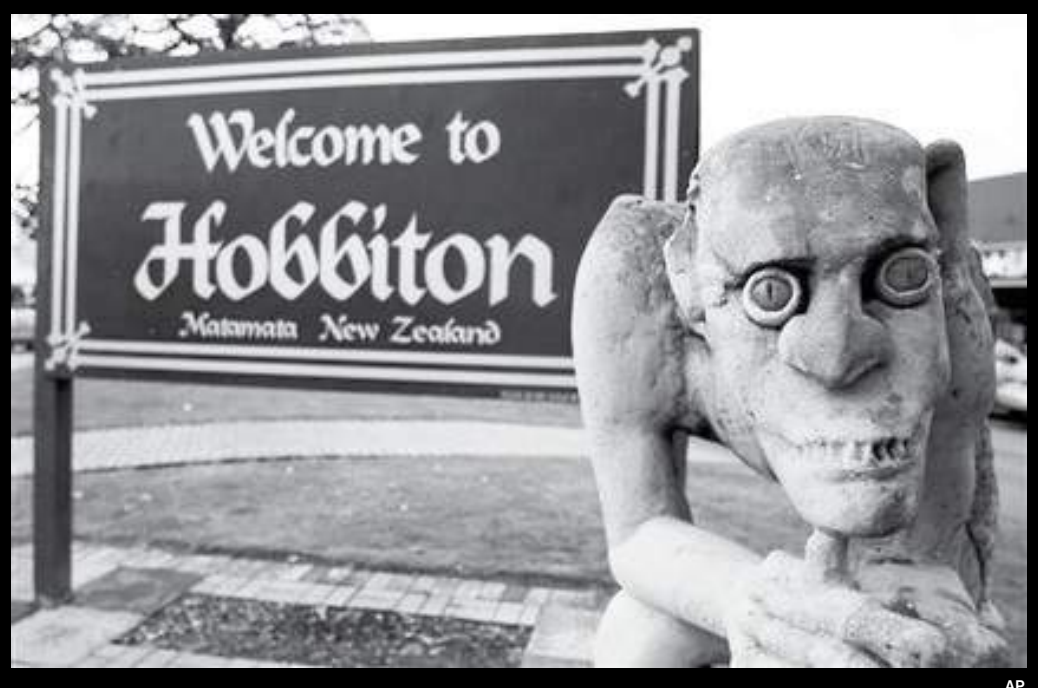
WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand may lose the filming of "The Hobbit" movies because of an actors' pay dispute, with financial backers Warner Bros. making arrangements to shift the production offshore, director Peter Jackson warned Thursday.

The "Lord of the Rings" film trilogy based on the J.R.R. Tolkien novels relied heavily on the rugged landscape of New Zealand, which in turn recieved a tourism boost after becoming associated with Tolkien's Middle Earth fantasy world inhabited by hairy-footed little people and host of other colorful beings.

But the $500 million, two-movie prequel, "The Hobbit," may end up being filmed elsewhere, Jackson's Wingnut Films said.

The New Zealand union, Actors Equity, insisted the dispute was being resolved and that it had lifted its work bans on the project, and foreign counterparts including the powerful U.S. Screen Actors Guild that had backed the boycott said its members were now free to work on the films.

But senior producers in Jackson's company said it may be too late to save the production in New Zealand.



AP

In this photo taken June 28, 2010, a sculpture of Gollum, the villainous "Lord of the Rings" hobbit, stands in front of a welcome sign, in Hobbiton Town, Matamata, New Zealand.

Fran Walsh, Jackson's partner and co-producer, said Warners already had an executive in England scoping locations and assessing the studio used for shooting the Harry Potter series to relocate "The Hobbit" movies.

Why would Warners "go to a place where they're almost guaranteed industrial action during the shoot?" Walsh told New Zealand's National Radio on Thursday. "They are saying they need stability and certainty and that's no longer here—they can protect their investment better elsewhere."

Jackson's company, Wingnut Films, said in a statement that Warners representatives were coming to New Zealand next week "to make arrangements to move the production offshore" because "they are now, quite rightly, very concerned about the security of their investment."

The industrial dispute began in late September when New Zealand Actors Equity arranged an international boycott of the movies when Jackson refused to hold talks on a union-negotiated collective agreement on wages and conditions for local actors, saying they should get a deal that matched those of their international colleagues.

Jackson and the films' backers, Warner Bros., MGM and New Line Cinema, said a collective agreement would expose Wingnut to unfair liabilities and sanctions under New Zealand law. They said the actors would be employed as independent contractors, with pay and conditions based on the local industry's standard working conditions.

The Screen Actors Guild and British actors joined the work blacklist of "The Hobbit," which is expected to include Sir Ian McKellen reprising the role of the wizard Galdalf from the Rings movies.

New Zealand Council of Trade Unions president Helen Kelly said Thursday the industrial issues were on the way to being resolved and the blacklist was lifted on Sunday.

"New Zealand performers want the movie made here as much as anyone," she said.

In a statement posted Wednesday on its web site, the Screen Actors Guild advised members it had lifted its blacklist on "The Hobbit" after advice from the New Zealand union and that members were free to work on "The Hobbit."

Jackson said in his statement the dispute had already done serious damage by undermining Warners' confidence in the New Zealand industry.

"Unfortunately lifting the blacklist does nothing to help the situation," the statement said.

Warners did not immediately comment on the situation.

The pay row is the latest in a string of troubles to hit the project. In May, original director Guillermo Del Toro quit after two years of involvement citing production delays. Jackson, the New Zealander who was a key creative force behind the Rings movies, stepped in as director. Filming was due to begin in New Zealand in February.

It also caused upheaval within New Zealand's film industry, which received a huge boost with the success of the Rings films and Jackson's sudden rise in profile in Hollywood that came as a result.

Late Wednesday, more than 1,000 film technicians chanting "Save The Hobbit" and waving banners that said "SOS Hobbits" marched through the capital, Wellington, demanding actors end their dispute.

After the huge success of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, Jackson has spent the past three years working on adapting The Hobbit. Written before the Rings saga, the novel introduces key characters such as title character Bilbo Baggins, and first describes the elaborate world of dwarves, trolls, elves and monsters that both tales inhabit.

Penthouse magazine founder Bob Guccione dies at 79

DALLAS (AP)—Bob Guccione had tried the seminary and spent years trying to make it as an artist before he found the niche that Hugh Hefner left for him in the late 1960s. Where Hefner's Playboy magazine strove to surround its pinups with an upscale image, Guccione aimed for something a little more direct with Penthouse.

More explicit nudes. Sensational stories. Even more sensational letters that began, "Dear Penthouse, I never thought I'd be writing you..."

It worked for decades for Guccione, who died Wednesday in Texas at the age of 79. He estimated that Penthouse earned $4 billion during his reign as publisher. He was listed in the Forbes 400 ranking of wealthiest people with a net worth of about $400 million in 1982.

In 1984 it was the magazine that took down Miss America, publishing nude pictures of Vanessa Williams, the first black woman to hold the title. Williams, who went on to fame as a singer and actress, was forced to relinquish her crown after the release of the issue, which sold nearly 6 million copies and reportedly made $14 million.

But Guccione's empire fell apart thanks to several bad investments and changes in the pornography industry, which became flooded with competition as it migrated from print to video and the Internet. His company, his world-class art collection, his huge Manhattan mansion—all of it, sold off.

Guccione's family said in a statement that he died at Plano Specialty Hospital in Plano. His wife, April Dawn Warren Guccione, had said he had battled lung cancer for several years.

Guccione started Penthouse in 1965 in England to subsidize his art career and was the magazine's first photographer. He introduced the magazine to the American public in 1969 at the height of the feminist movement and the sexual revolution.

Penthouse quickly posed a challenge to Playboy by offering a mix of tabloid journalism with provocative photos of nude women. The centerfolds were dubbed Penthouse Pets.

"We followed the philosophy of voyeurism," Guccione told The Independent newspaper in London in 2004. He added that he attained a stylized eroticism in his photography by posing his models looking away from the camera.

"To see her as if she doesn't know she's being seen," he said. "That was the sexy part. That was the part that none of our competition understood."

Guccione built a corporate empire under the General Media Inc. umbrella that included book publishing and merchandising divisions and Viva, a magazine featuring male nudes aimed at a female audience. He also created Penthouse Forum, the pocket-size magazine that played off the success of the racy letters to the editor.

AP

In this Sept. 30, 1981 file photo, Danielle Deneux, Penthouse "Pet of the Year" poses with publisher Bob Guccione at a poolside party in his townhouse in New York.

Guccione and longtime business collaborator Kathy Keeton, who later became his third wife, also published more mainstream fare, such as Omni magazine, which focused on science and science fiction, and Longevity, a health advice magazine. Keeton died of cancer in 1997 following surgery, but Guccione continued to list her on the Penthouse masthead as president.

Guccione lost much of his personal fortune on bad investments and risky ventures.

Probably his best-known business failure was a $17.5 million investment in the 1979 production of the X-rated film "Caligula." Malcolm McDowell was cast as the decadent emperor of the title, and the supporting cast included Helen Mirren, John Gielgud and Peter O'Toole.

Distributors shunned the film, with its graphic scenes of lesbianism and incest. However, it eventually became General Media's most popular DVD.

Guccione also lost millions on a proposed Atlantic City casino. He never received a gambling license and construction of the casino stalled.

Legal fees further eroded his fortune. Among those who sued were televangelist Jerry Falwell, a California resort, a former Miss Wyoming and a Penthouse Pet who accused Guccione of forcing her to perform sexual favors for business colleagues.

In 1985, Guccione had to pay $45 million in delinquent taxes.

The next year, U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese's Commission on Pornography issued a report attacking the adult entertainment industry. Guccione called the report "disgraceful" and doubted it would have any impact, but newsstands and convenience stores responded by pulling Penthouse from their magazine racks.

Sales dropped after the Meese commission report and years later took another hit with the proliferation of X-rated videos and Web sites. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, Penthouse's circulation dipped below 1 million in the late 1990s and fell to about 463,000 in 2003, the year General Media Inc. filed for bankruptcy. Over the first six months of 2010, Penthouse reported circulation of barely 178,000.

"The future has definitely migrated to electronic media," Guccione acknowledged in a 2002 New York Times interview.

In 2004, a private-equity investor from Florida acquired Penthouse in a bankruptcy sale. Penthouse and related properties are now owned by FriendFinder Networks Inc., a Boca Raton, Fla.-based company that offers social networking and online adult entertainment, including some with the Penthouse brand. FriendFinder made a bid this year for Playboy, which now outsells Penthouse roughly 10 to one, but Hefner has rejected it.

Guccione was born in Brooklyn and attended prep school in New Jersey. He spent several months in a Catholic seminary before dropping out to pursue his dream of becoming an artist. He wandered Europe as a painter for several years.

April Guccione said her husband was working as a cartoonist and a manager of self-service laundries in London when he got the idea of starting a magazine more explicit and aimed more squarely at "regular guys" than Playboy, which cultivated an upscale image.

Guccione's staff, which included family members, often described the publisher as mercurial.

"He was a mass of contradictions, engendering fierce loyalty and equally fierce contempt," wrote Patricia Bosworth in a 2005 Vanity Fair article about Guccione, for whom she had worked as executive editor of Viva.

"He hired and fired people—then rehired them. He could be warm and funny one minute and cold and detached the next."

Guccione's management style even sparked a rift with his own son, Bob Guccione Jr. In 1985, the publisher helped his son launch the music magazine Spin, with Bob Jr. serving as editor and publisher. After just two years, the two clashed over the direction of the magazine and the elder Guccione decided to shut it down, forcing his son to secure outside funding.

Success as a publisher allowed Guccione to amass an impressive art collection, which included paintings by El Greco, Modigliani, Dali, Degas, Matisse and Picasso. The works adorned his 30-room, 22,000-square-foot mansion in New York City.

Guccione's financial problems forced him to sell his art collection in 2002 at auction. The collection had been appraised by Christie's at $59 million two years earlier. Four years later, he was forced to sell his Manhattan mansion.

Guccione eventually went back to painting, and his works were shown at venues including the Butler Institute of American Art in Ohio and the Nassau County Museum of Art in New York, said April Guccione, who married him in 2006. The couple moved from New Jersey to Texas in 2009.

Married four times, Guccione had a daughter, Tonina, from his first marriage and three sons, Bob Jr., Tony, and Nick, and a daughter, Nina, from his second marriage.

April Guccione said services for her husband will be private.

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Paranormal Activity 2

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Spooky hauntings are once again the main course in this Paramount Pictures follow-up to Oren Peli's wildly successful supernatural thriller, Paranormal Activity. Kip Williams directs from a script by Michael Perry.

Jackass 3

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:40
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
The Jackass pranksters are at it again in this third outing, presented for the first time in 3D — an effect that will no doubt redefine the use of the in-your-face technology. Once again Jeff Tremaine returns to direct the MTV Films/Paramount Pictures production.

★ ★ ★

Red

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman
Thriller, Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Warren Ellis' acclaimed Wildstorm comic series is adapted in this Summit Entertainment production starring Bruce Willis as a retired government hitman who gets targeted by the same outfit he once worked for. Morgan Freeman and Helen Mirren co-star, with Robert Schwentke (The Time Traveler's Wife) directing from a script by the Whiteout writing team of Erich and Jon Hoeber.

Easy A

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Emma Stone, Penn Badgley
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Nanny McPhee Returns

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Emma Thomson, Maggie Gyllenhaal
Comedy • Rated PG

Life As We Know It

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Legend Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		4:20	7:20	

Sam Neil, Geoffrey Rush
Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

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Conan O'Brien's staff trains camera on itself

NEW YORK (AP)_Conan O'Brien is building the hype for his upcoming TBS talk show with the debut of a 24-hour "Coco Cam" online that shows live video from his office.

The "Coco Cam" is trained on an office stairwell. Its first-day highlights included a dancing man in a taco costume and another who gave a dramatic reading from behind a podium while passers-by threw things at him.

The first hour had an aerobics session with women in 1980s-era workout gear.

O'Brien, former NBC "Tonight" show host, is counting down the days toward his Nov. 8 debut. Other promotional highlights have included a blimp with "Conan" that has drifted around stadiums during Major League Baseball playoff games that TBS is broadcasting.

In this Aug. 29, 2010 file photo, Conan O'Brien and wife Liza Powel arrive for the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

Rihanna leaves manager, now under Jay-Z's umbrella

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna is now under Jay-Z's umbrella.

The Grammy-winning pop singer has parted ways with manager Marc Jordan and is now being managed by Jay-Z's Roc Nation Management.

Rihanna told The Associated Press in a statement Wednesday that she's "so excited to take this next step in my career."

The 22-year-old is also launching a new company called Rihanna Entertainment. She says it will "merge all of her businesses, including music, film, fragrance fashion and book ventures."

Jay-Z signed Rihanna to Def Jam in 2005. The two won a Grammy in 2008 for the hit song "Umbrella." Earlier this year, the pair picked up two Grammys for the rap song "Run This Town," which also featured Kanye West.

AP

In this March 27, 2010 file photo, Rihanna arrives at Nickelodeon's 23rd Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

She's released four albums and plans to release her fifth CD, "Loud," on Nov. 16.

Actress Kim Novak being treated for breast cancer

AP

In this Jan. 14, 2007 file photo, actress Kim Novak poses for photographers upon arriving at a special screening of Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 film "Vertigo," in which she starred, at the Egyptian Theater in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Kim Novak is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Novak's manager says the 77-year-old "Vertigo" actress will receive "minimal" treatment, as the cancer was caught early by a routine mammogram and that she is in "fantastic physical shape."

Manager Sue Cameron says Novak works out with a trainer three times a week and rides horses daily.

Cameron says Novak is expected to "be just fine."

"The Man With the Golden Arm" star appeared in a string of films in the late 1950s and 1960s. She lives in Oregon with her husband.

Ex-Playmate charged with attempted murder in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former Playboy Playmate of the Year who appeared in the horror movie "Rosemary's Baby" has been charged with shooting her boyfriend at their Hollywood apartment.

The district attorney's office says 66-year-old Victoria Rathgeb pleaded not guilty to attempted murder on Tuesday. She remains jailed Wednesday on $1.5 million bail and could face up to life in prison if convicted.

Police say that she shot her boyfriend during a domestic dispute Saturday evening.

Los Angeles police spokeswoman Norma Eisenman says the man, whose identity wasn't released, remains in critical condition.

Rathgeb was 1968's Playmate of the Year under the name of Angela Dorian. She had TV and movie roles in the 1960s and 1970s and played a recovering heroin addict in the 1968 hit "Rosemary's Baby."

First lady honors arts programs for at-risk youth

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kids took the stage and celebrities sat in the audience Wednesday as first lady Michelle Obama honored community arts programs that help young people around the country develop their talents and succeed in life.

Mrs. Obama presented 15 after-school and out-of-school programs, many of them serving at-risk youth, with the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. She said the programs teach young people that "each of them has something of value to contribute."

The East Room erupted in whoops and hollers after a handful of solemn-looking youngsters from an arts program in Hartford, Conn., carefully took the stage and then burst forth as a jazz combo performing with tap dancers.

"You never know the hidden passion that's in a kid," Mrs. Obama declared after their performance.

She called the arts programs "shining examples of using success in the arts and humanities as a bridge to success in life."

The award is presented on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with three national cultural agencies. The committee includes a number of celebrities, and some of them were on hand for the White House ceremony, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Forest Whitaker and Kerry Washington.

Mom is hurt by daughter's refusal to confide in her

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter, "Skye," is starting to go through puberty. She's not comfortable discussing things with me; instead she goes to her older sister with all her questions. They talk to each other in whispered tones in their bedroom with the door closed and locked.

When I try to discuss things with Skye, she becomes red in the face and refuses to talk to me. She is now ashamed to even have me see her undressed, but has no shyness about her body with her sister.

They have always had a close relationship, and I am pleased about that, but I feel shut out of what should be something between a mother and a daughter. I do not feel I have ever done anything to make Skye feel uncomfortable with me about such things, and I feel hurt to be excluded like this.

My older daughter was very open with me about what she was experiencing when she was going through puberty. I have tried to ask Skye what the problem is; she won't talk to me. What can I do?

SHUT OUT IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR SHUT OUT: No two children are alike, and it appears that your younger daughter is modest to the extreme. It's possible that because Skye has always shared a room with her older sister, that's the reason she's more comfortable discussing the changes that are occurring with her rather than you.

My advice is to step back and don't push Skye. Be glad she can confide in her sister, and check with your older girl periodically to find out if there is anything you should know.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Due to the war on terror and a renewed sense of patriotism, more individuals and businesses are displaying American flags. However, many appear to be unfamiliar with flag etiquette.

With Veteran's Day approaching (Nov. 11), please encourage readers to inspect their flags and make sure they are being displayed correctly. If the flag is torn or dirty, it should be cleaned and mended, or disposed of with dignity. A properly handled flag is a sign of respect to those who have served, and currently serve, to protect the freedoms we Americans often take for granted.

PROUD FAMILY MEMBER OF A VETERAN

DEAR PROUD FAMILY MEMBER: Your letter is timely and important. Proud Americans who display flags should be aware of a rule of flag etiquette that states that the flag should be in good condition. Sadly, I have seen more than a few that looked like faded red, white and blue rags.

According to the U.S. Flag Code, "When a flag has served its useful purpose, it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." The pamphlet "Flag Etiquette" published by the American Legion states: "For individual citizens this should be done discreetly so that the act is not perceived as a protest or desecration."

Many American Legion posts conduct Disposal of Unserviceable Flag ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day, each year. The Boy and Girl Scouts of America also are able to conduct these ceremonies. If you're ready to dispose of yours, check with the local Boy or Girl Scout Council—or wait until the Girl Scout cookie sales start locally and offer the flag to a troop during a sale at a small business.

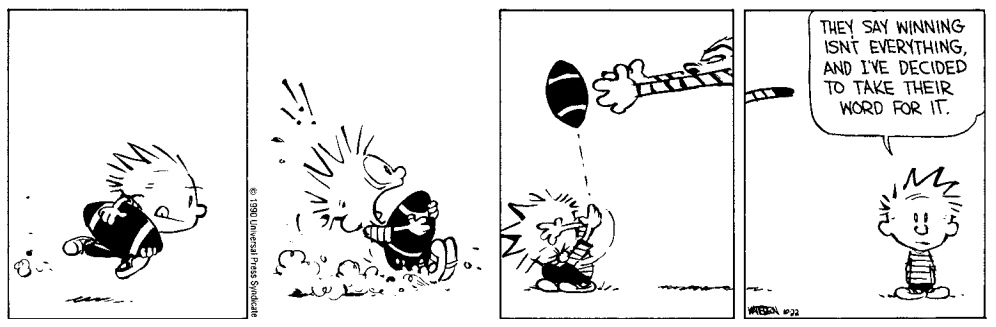
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



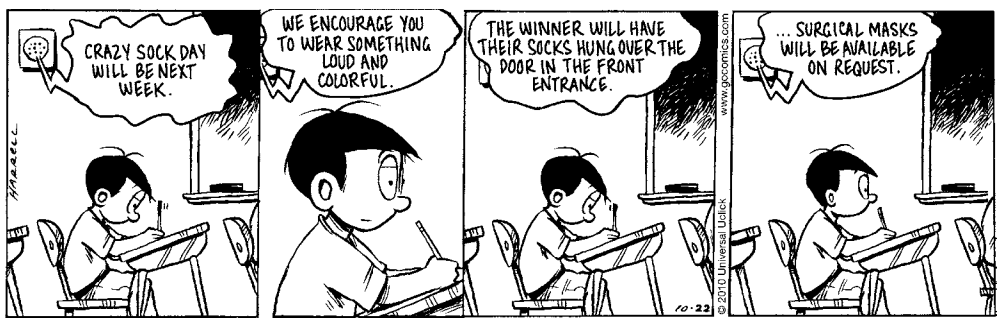
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ IS COMING OVER TONIGHT
I WANT JUST THE RIGHT ROMANTIC MOOD
BETTER TUNE UP MY BANJO
WHOA, JONNY... BACK THE TRUCK UP...
JIM DAVIS 10-22

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CRAZY SOCK DAY WILL BE NEXT WEEK.
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WEAR SOMETHING LOUD AND COLORFUL.
THE WINNER WILL HAVE THEIR SOCKS HUNG OVER THE DOOR IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE.
... SURGICAL MASKS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Height of fashion?
4 Author Stoker
8 Earthenware pot
12 "The Greatest"
13 Tiny bit
14 Tire (out)
15 Church VIP
17 Relaxation
18 Big bothers
19 Draw conclusions
20 The fifth element
22 Portend
24 First victim
25 Reeve role
29 Parcel of land
30 Paycheck extra
31 Anger
32 Final courses
34 Fit of peevishness
35 Dregs
36 Lummoxes
37 Started
40 Close
41 Eager
42 Vitamins' partners
46 Longtime CNN interviewer
47 Cupid's alias
48 NAFTA member
49 Otherwise
50 Arrests
51 Carpet

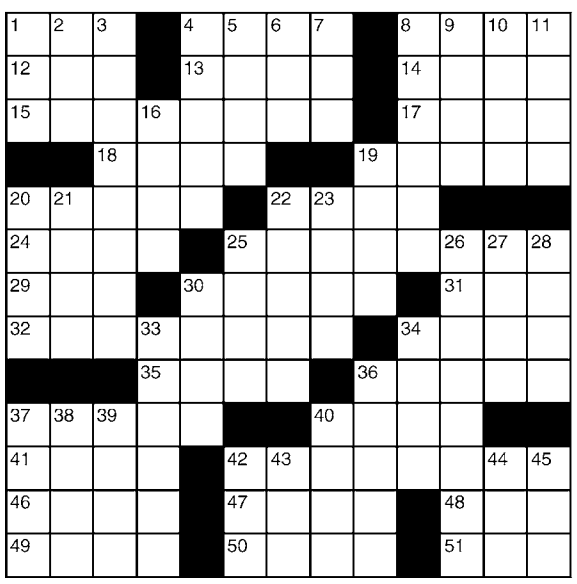
DOWN

1 Overactor
2 Yale student
3 Mosque towers
4 Plain figure?
5 Deteriorates
6 Packed away
7 Scratch
8 First game
9 Goldbrick
10 Come in last
11 Mimic
16 Pedestal occupant
19 Mid-month date
20 Hairless
21 Reed instrument
22 Batter's tactics
23 Piece of work
25 Aching
26 Labyrinth beast
27 Desert-like
28 Profits
30 Existed
33 Gunk
34 Speak unclearly
36 Kasparov's game
37 Prepare a casserole
38 Satan's specialty
39 Traps
40 Uppity one
42 "Two and a Half —"
43 Playwright Levin
44 Baton Rouge sch.
45 Droop

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	R	A	D	■	A	S	H	■	R	A	I	D
L	A	C	E	■	L	A	O	■	I	N	T	O
O	G	R	E	■	A	D	O	■	D	A	S	H
B	E	E	P	E	R	■	D	R	O	P	■	■
■	■	■	F	A	M	I	L	Y	F	E	U	D
C	H	A	R	T	■	D	U	E	■	S	K	I
L	E	V	Y	■	R	I	M	■	S	T	E	M
E	R	E	■	F	O	O	■	P	A	S	S	E
F	A	M	I	L	Y	T	I	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	A	N	Y	A	■	F	A	S	T	E	R
H	U	R	L	■	L	E	N	■	I	O	T	A
A	R	I	A	■	T	W	O	■	E	D	A	M
G	N	A	W	■	Y	E	T	■	R	O	S	S

Yesterday's answer 10-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Hanson, 25; Jesse Tyler Ferguson, 35; Jeff Goldblum, 58; Catherine Deneuve, 67

Happy Birthday: Your ability to juggle all sorts of different activities and projects will separate you from the crowd. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. This can be a fabulous year but only if you are willing to put in the time and effort. If that means going it alone, do so. Your intuition will not lead you astray. Your numbers are 2, 9, 21, 27, 33, 39, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may want to rethink your strategy or at least what you are going to say before you blurt out something you'll regret. An intense situation will have a favorable outcome. Get ready to make some changes. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Meeting someone halfway to settle a pending matter will be in your best interest. Love is on the rise and a chance to spend time with someone you care for should be worked into your agenda. Don't be tricked into helping someone with a sob story. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Trust in your own abilities, not the promises of someone unreliable. It's important to handle your own affairs and to keep your private life a secret. The less people know about you, the easier it will be to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let a poor-me attitude hold you back when you have so much going for you. Be adventurous and try your hand at something new. The more you socialize and network, the better your chance for professional advancement. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Troubles at home or with your residence can be expected. Take care of problems quickly before things escalate. By speaking up and offering suggestions, you will be considered a mediator instead of a troublemaker. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't sit back waiting for someone to take over. You be the boss, the one making the decisions and using persuasive means to get what you want. Positive gains are within reach if you are true to your beliefs and follow through with your plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The weekend may be approaching but work or finding a better job should be your prime concern. Call on people you have worked with in the past. Reconnecting can lead to a position with greater growth potential and a higher salary. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Infiltrate a group or organization that can help you reach your goals. Your ability to create opportunities and mysteriously find a place or situation that highlights your talent and skills will be masterfully executed. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be entertaining and will attract a lot of attention. Make sure you don't exaggerate or compromise. Criticism can be expected if you are not fair. Answer questions with honesty and integrity. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get involved and help the underdog. Taking on a power position will enable you to enhance your reputation, as long as you are honest regarding your motives. Your status will get a boost professionally or personally. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take on a project or get involved in a deal that will help bring you the freedom you've been searching for. Don't let someone get the better of you emotionally. Travel plans should be put on hold. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's never too late to learn something new. What you experience now you will be able to use in the future. Signing a contract or making a move or investment will all lead to greater prosperity. Love and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed and intense and stand up for your beliefs. You are aggressive—a leader intent on accomplishing what you set out to do.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			2		5		
1							3	
			6	1				9
		5			8			
9		4		7		2		5
			2			9		
8				9	7			
	5							3
		1		6			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	5	2	6	4	8	3	1
4	6	1	8	3	7	9	5	2
3	2	8	9	1	5	6	4	7
6	8	7	3	4	1	5	2	9
1	9	3	5	7	2	4	8	6
2	5	4	6	9	8	7	1	3
8	1	9	7	5	3	2	6	4
7	4	2	1	8	6	3	9	5
5	3	6	4	2	9	1	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TIME TO EXERCISE **Solution: 8 letters**

G	S	G	N	I	D	L	I	U	B	Y	D	O	B	G
W	N	N	H	G	I	H	T	R	I	C	E	P	S	N
S	G	I	L	A	T	E	R	A	L	S	V	E	Q	I
G	A	Y	M	Y	D	N	E	B	T	G	I	G	U	N
N	K	A	M	M	I	I	S	E	A	E	T	N	A	E
I	N	L	P	N	I	N	T	N	E	L	C	I	D	H
R	U	P	N	U	A	W	G	C	R	S	A	N	R	T
T	R	A	R	T	S	S	S	H	O	T	L	N	I	G
S	T	R	E	T	C	H	T	S	B	A	V	U	C	N
M	E	L	A	H	X	E	U	I	I	U	Ⓔ	R	E	E
A	N	S	T	E	S	A	O	P	C	Q	Ⓢ	A	P	R
H	O	G	C	S	P	R	K	R	S	S	Ⓐ	I	S	T
A	T	N	L	A	I	T	R	A	M	B	Ⓔ	S	T	S
N	A	R	C	H	H	A	O	C	U	P	P	E	R	A
D	G	N	I	K	L	A	W	E	I	G	H	T	S	F

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Yesterday's Answer: Jungle

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including conducting pre-application consultations, reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys to inspect compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Prepare notices of violation and other compliance documents for approval by the Zoning Administrator; Serve notices of violations; Coordinate with staff of other agencies to enhance effectiveness and efficiency; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of three years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Fluent in Chamorro or Carolinian. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary range is from $25,000 to 28,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 4:30pm.

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DAY & NIGHT

Uribe lifts Giants to 3-1 lead in NLCS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The castoff comes through with another big hit, the rookie delivers again. The slumping slugger emerges at exactly the right time, the guy too banged up to start comes through at the end.

It's been that kind of season for the charmed San Francisco Giants, now just one win away from the World Series.

Juan Uribe, sore left wrist and all, hit a sacrifice fly off reliever Roy Oswalt with one out in the ninth inning Wednesday night, sending the Giants past the Philadelphia Phillies 6-5 for a 3-1 lead in the NL championship series.

"It seems like all the baseball talk is all East Coast," said Aubrey Huff, who slid home with the final run. "Everybody watching tonight saw exactly how we've played all year."

Boosted by yet another big hit from late-season pickup Cody Ross, four hits and two RBIs from rookie Buster Posey and a timely double from struggling Pablo Sandoval, the Giants pushed the two-time defending NL champion Phillies to the brink of elimination.

Philadelphia will send Roy Halladay against Tim Lincecum in Game 5 on Thursday night. It's a rematch of aces that Lincecum won in the opener.

"Two of the best arms in the game," Posey said. "We're in a good position. But at the same time, we know anything can happen in baseball."

A champion with the White Sox in 2005, Uribe made his mark on this NLCS in a matter of moments - a great play with his glove, then one swing to win it.

Huff singled with one out in the ninth and took third when Posey singled for his fourth hit of the game. Uribe hit a medium-deep fly, leaving left fielder Ben Francisco with no chance to get Huff.

"Who doesn't want to play now? I want to be here," Uribe said. "In that moment, everybody knew my wrist was hurting a little bit. I think that's why he threw a lot of fastballs in because he knew. I was trying to hit the ball deep enough to get the run home and for us to win the game."

Going to Oswalt to begin the ninth backed manager Charlie Manuel's words this was his club's biggest game yet this year. Now, it will be Thursday.

"We know what is at stake, but the game is the same. We have an opportunity to win a game tomorrow," Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins said.

Oswalt is one of the majors' top starters and beat the Giants in Game 2. He has made only a few relief appearances in the last several years, including a stint in the 2004 NLCS for Houston.

Uribe entered at shortstop in the top of the ninth. He immediately picked up a hard one-hopper by pinch-hitter Ross Gload in the hole and made a strong throw while falling away for the out.

That started a perfect ninth for winning pitcher Brian Wilson, the major league saves leader.

"I got butterflies," Wilson said. "I got anxiety. I got a mini-ulcer developing, but it's all worth it. We never lost focus."

After Freddy Sanchez lined out to right to start the bottom of the ninth, Huff and Posey singled. Phillies right fielder Jayson Werth made a nice sliding stop on the warning track to keep Huff from scoring.

"We faced him a couple nights ago," Posey said. "He's got great stuff, just battling."

Then came Uribe, a quiet 1 for 7 in the NLCS before this one. On a 1-1 pitch, he claimed he got hit in the hand by Oswalt's fastball, but umpire Wally Bell said it was a foul.

Uribe wound up with the game-winner moments later, leaving the Giants just one victory shy of reaching the World Series for the first time in eight years.

Sandoval came jumping out of the dugout as Uribe's ball was in the air. Giants players streamed out of the dugout and mobbed Uribe after he rounded first base. Huff and Posey exchanged high-fives near the mound and Sandoval and Sanchez hugged.

Posey starred at the plate and behind it, too. He made a great play at the plate to save a run earlier, neatly handling a short hop and tagging out Carlos Ruiz at the plate.

Werth's double in the eighth made it 5-all after Ryan Howard doubled against Javier Lopez leading off the inning.

Posey had an RBI double in the first and run-scoring single in the third—both coming with two outs—for his first RBIs of the postseason. He added a seventh-inning double as well.

Philadelphia's Placido Polanco hit a two-run double in the fifth inning of a game that went back and forth.

Manuel stuck with Joe Blanton rather than going to Halladay on short rest. Blanton hung tough in his first start in three weeks but was done after allowing Huff's two-out single in the fifth.

Pat Burrell drew a leadoff walk in the sixth and Ross followed with a double. Sandoval swung at Chad Durbin's first offering and the ball was ruled foul by first base umpire Jeff Nelson after right field umpire Ted Barrett jumped out of the way. Replays showed it was very close. Giants manger Bruce Bochy came out to argue. Moments later, Sandoval made good with his two-run double for a 5-4 lead.

That swing made the "Kung Fu Panda" an unlikely postseason contributor for San Francisco, which has been riding the reliable bat of Ross all series long. Sandoval, coming off a disappointing year in which he batted just .268, earned his first start of the NLCS when Uribe couldn't go.

Sandoval grounded into an inning-ending double play in the seventh. That after he grounded into an NL-high 26 double plays this season.

Ross produced again. He hit a go-ahead single Tuesday after connecting for three home runs in the two games at Philadelphia. After Cole Hamels joked about hitting Ross as a way to slow him down, Blanton did just that to start the second. Not that it was on purpose: Blanton threw two wild pitches in the first.

One fan waved a "Ross for Governor" sign. Another read: "This is Rosstober."

But by the end, the familiar chants or "U-ribe! U-ribe!" rang through the Giants' packed waterfront ballpark.

Aaron Rowand, a former Gold Glover earning a second straight start in center field, made a fabulous throw home to save a second run from coming in on Shane Victorino's RBI single in the fifth. Posey, the rookie catcher, made a tremendous pickup on the short hop and applied the tag as the slow-footed Ruiz slid home.

Rowand was replaced in a double switch by Andres Torres one batter later.

Bochy again made all the right moves.

He stuck with Rowand in center field in place of the slumping Torres until the midgame switch. Sandoval was fresh and ready to fill in for Uribe, a late scratch before Game 2 at Citizens Bank Park on Sunday before playing Tuesday. The wrist had bothered Uribe when swinging, Bochy said.

There was no sign of that on his final cut.

Rookie Madison Bumgarner, a 21-year-old lefty who pitched the NLDS clincher Oct. 11 at Atlanta, struck out six in 4 2-3 innings in his first time facing the Phillies.

Manuel benched struggling Raul Ibanez, who is mired in an 0-for-15 funk dating to the division series with Cincinnati. Francisco replaced him in left field and he produced his first postseason hit with a leadoff single in the fifth. He had been 0 for 12.

AP

San Francisco Giants' Juan Uribe hits a game-winning sacrifice fly during the ninth inning of Game 4 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the Philadelphia Phillies Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, in San Francisco. The Giants won to 6-5 to take a 3-1 lead in the series.

Yankees recover in Game 5

NEW YORK (AP)—They were facing the end of their season and a miserable winter after that.

Not to worry, Joe Girardi said. Speaking in the wee hours before his players went home for a few hours sleep ahead of Game 5, the New York Yankees manager implored them not to give up.

"That was huge," CC Sabathia said. "Just having us be able to relax and not panic."

No panic here. Sabathia pitched like a champion, and the Yankees are heading for Texas.

Nick Swisher and Robinson Cano hit consecutive homers to build an early cushion, Sabathia made the lead stand up and the Yankees beat the Rangers 7-2 Wednesday to close within 3-2 in the AL championship series.

"We're right where we need to be," Swisher said.

A late-arriving crowd for the late-afternoon game wondered whether this would be it for the defending World Series champs after Texas outscored them 25-5 while winning three straight.

A difficult comeback? Yes.

Impossible? No.

As Girardi remembered telling his players, "Before we lost the three games in a row, we won four in a row." He added: "Just look at tomorrow. Win a game tomorrow."

By the time Curtis Granderson hit an eighth-inning homer for his second RBI of the game, belief among the Yankees was starting to grow.

Now the teams will go deep in the heart of Texas to decide the pennant in the best-of-seven series. When they resume in Arlington for Game 6, Phil Hughes starts for the Yankees against Colby Lewis in a rematch of Game 2, won by the Rangers 7-2.

"It's great. We're going back home," Lewis said. "We've got to win one out of two."

Texas may be holding the ultimate postseason ace in the hole: Cliff Lee would start a Game 7 against Andy Pettitte.

"Who cares about Cliff going in Game 7?" Texas right fielder Jeff Francoeur said. "We've got a game to win in Game 6."

Still, Lee's 7-0 postseason record is on their minds. In the 50th anniversary of a franchise that has never reached the World Series, Texas remains one win away.

"We're in a good position," second baseman Ian Kinsler said.

New York is trying to overcome its first 3-1 postseason deficit 1958. Since the LCS went to a best-of-seven format, 24 of the 30 previous teams to take 3-1 series leads have won pennants.

For Yankees fans, 2004 is still fresh. That's when New York won the first three games of the ALCS, but the Boston Red Sox became the first major league team to rebound from 3-0 postseason deficit.

"Crazier things have happened," Swisher said.

Yankees players actually dressed for success. They all arrived at the ballpark ready for a postgame charter flight.

"Our guys came in, everybody was wearing a suit," Swisher said.

Sabathia recovered from an erratic opener, staying away from too much trouble against Josh Hamilton and Texas' big bats. Rangers slugger Nelson Cruz made an early exit with hamstring trouble, a day after Yankees star Mark Teixeira was lost for the postseason with a hamstring injury.

Cruz expects to play Friday. But no matter what, the season is over for Teixeira. The All-Star first baseman was removed from the postseason roster and replaced by Eduardo Nunez, and Teixeira would not be eligible for the World Series. Lance Berkman took over at first base and had a scare when he slipped chasing Kinsler's foul pop, causing his head and back to snap back. Berkman needed smelling salts in the dugout at the half inning. He stayed in, and caught Elvis Andrus' foul pop for the final out.

"I hurt pretty much the entire back side from the top of the head to the rear-end area," Berkman said.

On what would have been Bob Sheppard's 100th birthday and Mickey Mantle's 79th, the Yankees took a 3-0 lead in the second as losing pitcher C.J. Wilson had trouble with the muddy mound and created a hole with a pair of four-pitch walks. Jorge Posada and Granderson had run-scoring singles, and another run scored on an overthrow of third by Francoeur for an error in right field.

Posada, a snail-like runner with just 20 steals in 16 seasons, sped home from first base.

"He looked like Rickey Henderson out there," said Derek Jeter, Posada's core four buddy.

Girardi had sensed a change in attitude.

"There was determination that we were going to go out and play our game today," he said. "I saw it during BP."

Sabathia lasted just four innings in the opener, when he started on eight days' rest and the Yankees rallied from a five-run deficit. Leads of 5-0 and 6-1 never seemed comfortable in this one as he allowed two runs and 11 hits - matching his season high - in six innings with no walks.

"I just wanted to fight, no matter what the situation was, no matter how many runners were on base in any given inning," he said.

His key outs came in the sixth, when the Rangers loaded the bases with one out.

Matt Treanor, who had homered in the fifth, hit an RBI grounder. Then, culminating an eight-pitch at-bat, Sabathia froze No. 9 hitter Mitch Moreland with a curveball to strike him out. The big man responded with a fist pump.

Players confused by NFL crackdown on hard hits

NEW YORK (AP)—Ray Lewis is worried about what's happening to his sport.

The Baltimore linebacker who epitomizes hard hits in the NFL fears that the league is stripping away the inherent violence and "the game will be diluted very quickly."

"My opinion is play the game like that game is supposed to be played, and whatever happens happens," Lewis said Wednesday about the NFL's decision to crack down on dangerous and flagrant hits.

The NFL imposed huge fines on three players—Pittsburgh's James Harrison, Atlanta's Dunta Robinson and New England's Brandon Meriweather—for illegal hits last weekend, although none of those plays drew penalties on the field. It warned that, starting with this week's games, violent conduct will be cause for suspension.

Arizona Cardinals linebacker Joey Porter was clearly perplexed by the decision.

"There's no more hitting hard. That's what our game is about. It's a gladiator sport," Porter said. "I mean, the whole excitement of people getting hit hard, big plays happening, stuff like that.

"Just watch—the game is going to change."

Violence has always been a part of the NFL, bringing soaring TV ratings and strong attendance—along with the allure that accompanied tackles by Chuck Bednarik, Fred "The Hammer" Williamson, and Jack "The Assassin" Tatum.

The question is how much to allow.

"Physical, tough football is what people are attracted to," said Ray Anderson, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations. "Violent, unnecessary hits that put people at risk, not just for the careers but lives ... we're not subscribing to the notion fans want that."

AP

In this Oct. 17, 2010, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) hits Cleveland Browns wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi (11) during the second quarter of a an NFL football game in Pittsburgh. Harrison was fined $75,000 on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, for his hit against Massaquoi.

Commissioner Roger Goodell told the teams that "further action is required to emphasize the importance of teaching safe and controlled techniques and of playing within the rules."

"It is incumbent on all of us to support the rules we have in place to protect players," he said.

But some players think the league is asking for something much more difficult: complete changes in playing style—changes that fans don't want to see.

Not surprisingly, defensive players are most critical.

"What they're trying to say—'We're protecting the integrity'—no, you're not," Bears cornerback Charles Tillman said. "It's ruining the integrity. It's not even football anymore. We should just go out there and play two-hand touch Sunday if we can't make contact."

Miami linebacker Channing Crowder said the only way of preventing helmet-to-helmet hits is to eliminate the helmet.

"If I get a chance to knock somebody out, I'm going to knock them out and take what they give me," Crowder said. "They give me a helmet, I'm going to use it."

The players are questioning how they are supposed to adhere to the heightened emphasis on avoiding dangerous hits when it goes against everything they've been taught since they first stepped on the field as kids.

"Guys have to be coached differently because we've been coached a certain way our whole lives," said Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita, a member of the executive committee of the players' union, the NFLPA. "I think people out there would be shocked at the things players hear in their meetings with their coaches and the things they are supposed to do, the way they are taught to hit people."

Many players also wanted stronger discipline for flagrant fouls to be part of their negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement, not something unilaterally imposed six weeks into the season.

"We want to protect the players, absolutely," Fujita said. "But we need to have a longer conversation about it, and if you're going to impose sweeping changes like that and talk about suspending players, that's something that you have to address in the offseason."

Anderson argues that the way the game is played, officiated and policed will only change for the better—and safer.

"We are not going to fundamentally change the game. We're focused on one thing, illegal hits to the head and neck area," he said. "We hope to culturally change it so players understand those head hits under existing rules should be taken out of the game. For players who can't make the adjustment on their own, they will get a lot of help from this office to make sure they don't play that way."

Officials will be instructed to have an even higher level of attention toward flagrant hits, which Anderson categorized as limited "but very high profile and damaging."

The NFL's crackdown was welcomed in the medical community.

Dr. William Bingaman, vice chairman of the Neurological Institute at the Cleveland Clinic and one of the independent doctors who examines concussed players to determine when they can return to action, sees it as a positive step.

But it's hardly a cure-all for preventing head injuries—or any other injuries—in the NFL, where the players are bigger and faster, and the enhanced equipment can make them foolishly gallant.

"We will never eliminate the dangers of a concussion occurring," Bingaman said, taking note that both Robinson and Jackson suffered concussions in their collision. "It's huge that we have the proper equipment and the proper training and proper tackling techniques.

"Anything that reduces a blow to the head, naturally I am in favor of that, because there is less risk and less incidents of concussions or something more serious. If you reduce helmet-to-helmet contact, it will reduce the number of concussions, but nothing they do can eliminate it."

Just as worrisome to some players, though, is limiting their ability to remain in the NFL.

"The guys who have had the knack to lay somebody out, I consider it a talent in itself," Broncos safety David Bruton said. "I feel as though these deterrents would be depriving them of the chance to showcase their abilities."

Anderson disagreed. "We're not subscribing to the notion you want these guys out there running wild and blowing people up," he said. "Everything is on the table with regard to advancing player safety."

Favre not disclosing details on meeting with NFL

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Brett Favre doesn't want to talk about any subject but the Green Bay Packers, while the NFL is seeking more information about allegations he sent suggestive messages and lewd photos in 2008 to a woman who worked for the New York Jets.

Speaking on a conference call with reporters in Green Bay ahead of Sunday night's Vikings-Packers game, Favre called the NFL's investigation into his alleged behavior a "league matter." Minutes later, he also declined to answer a series of questions about the situation in his weekly Wednesday news conference with Minnesota media.

"That's a league issue," Favre said, "that I just have to leave at that."

The Vikings quarterback met with NFL vice president for security Milt Ahlerich on Tuesday about his alleged advances toward then-Jets game emcee Jenn Sterger two years ago, when Favre played for New York.

Favre brushed off a question about whether the situation has weighed on him, insisting it was instead the "front five for Dallas" that weighed on him last week. He said this week his "focus is solely on Green Bay."

Asked why he hasn't denied the allegations, Favre said: "The one thing I'm going to say is that's something that's within the league, and I'll just have to leave it at that—let that process work itself out."

Sterger has hired lawyers but has not commented on the allegations, which were posted on Deadspin.com without her cooperation. The website paid a third party for the texts, voicemails and graphic photos, said to be of Favre, that it posted in a video. Sterger has not commented on the website's report.

Attorney Joseph Conway said Wednesday his firm will advise Sterger "and pursue any potential remedies that may exist." He confirmed being contacted by the NFL, but said nothing had been decided on a possible meeting between Sterger and the league.

Sterger is now a TV personality for the Versus network. Her manager, Phil Reese, said she's had no discussions with Favre representatives about a possible financial settlement stemming from the allegations.

A.J. Daulerio, Deadspin's editor in chief, posted on the website Wednesday that he told Ahlerich he was willing to cooperate with the NFL but "any and all information we have to offer is available on the site" and he wouldn't provide anything more than that at this point.

Favre appeared relaxed at the podium inside Minnesota's practice facility. While refusing to acknowledge concern about the investigation and insisting he's only worried about the Packers, Favre took time to mention their multiple-formation defense, the pressure of facing his old team and the magnitude of the game given a tight NFC North race.

AP

In this image taken from video, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre reacts during an NFL football news conference Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Then, with a touch of self-deprecating humor, he poked fun at his age and questioned his ability to hold up in Green Bay.

"I look old, gray and weary, with crows feeding on me and that stuff," Favre said.

Asked about the reaction he's expecting from the Packers fans, Favre cracked a slight smile.

"I'd like for it to be a better reaction than last year, but I can't be concerned about that," he said. "I know what I did there, the legacy that I left behind, the commitment I had to that team, the way I played. And it was a long, long time. So I'm proud of that. And I'm not going to really think about it."

The Vikings played one of their best all-around games of the 2009 season while beating the Packers 38-26 at Lambeau Field last Nov. 1, and Favre's current teammates are eager to again lend their support.

Kicker Ryan Longwell, one of his closest friends, said he's spoken to Favre in the last few weeks even more extensively than usual.

"I can tell by looking at him. I can tell by what he's talking about and his words and what he's feeling," Longwell said, adding: "I think Brett's in a really good place right now. If anybody can compartmentalize over the years, he's certainly one that can do it with the best of them."

This wouldn't be a Packers-Vikings week without at least one reference to Favre's retirement plan. The 41-year-old was asked by the Green Bay media on his conference call why people should believe this will be his last season, as he declared upon reporting to the Vikings in mid-August.

No secret: With LeBron, Heat looking for a title

MIAMI (AP)—So far, everything about the latest chapter of LeBron James' storied life has been different.

The forklift ride toward the stage where a packed arena showed up just to celebrate his signing of a Miami Heat contract. The accusations of quitting, selfishness, being a heartbreaker from Cleveland. The often negative, sometimes even venomous reaction, from around the league not only his decision, but the way he made "The Decision."

It's been like nothing he'd ever experienced.

"I've stayed the same," James said. "All business."

Here's something else he hasn't experienced: A championship parade.

The entire basketball world knows that's the goal, the only possible thing that will make the NBA's two-time MVP sit back and say his first season in Heat colors was a success. He came clse in Cleveland. In Miami, next to Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and the rest of a practically hand-picked roster, close won't be close to enough.

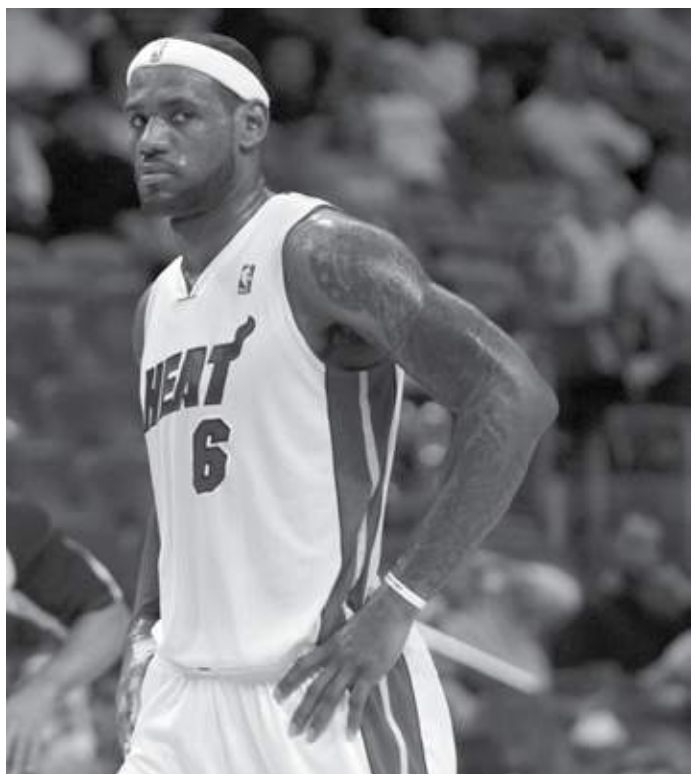
A season of colossal expectations starts in Boston on Tuesday night. And those NBA schedule-makers knew what they were doing. Boston. Where Wade's season ended last year, followed by his part-threat, part-prediction that he wouldn't again exit the playoffs in the first round anytime soon. Where James' season, his Cleveland chapter, came to an inglorious end a few weeks later. Where Bosh has lost 11 times, the highest total he's had as a visitor to any NBA arena.

"The big thing is that everybody is in this room together," said Heat guard Eddie House, who, like just about everyone else on the roster, spurned higher-paying offers elsewhere. "We're all together. We're not worried about anything else. I don't think guys are worried about stats. I don't think guys are worried about getting paid. I think guys are just worried about playing and proving what we know to everybody else."

Motivation is there in bunches for the Heat, starting with all the doubters.

Miami was considered by many an afterthought in the free agency sweepstakes of 2010. Forget landing James, or Bosh. Some thought the Heat would have a hard enough time keeping Wade.

So Heat President Pat Riley pulled out all the stops. At 12:01 a.m. on July 1, when the free-agent window opened, just about all Miami's free-agent targets got iPads, loaded with a recruiting pitch about the team, the city, the makeup of the franchise. A whirlwind week of cross-country flights and sleepless nights followed.



AP

Miami Heat's LeBron James reacts after being charged with a foul against the Charlotte Bobcats during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Oct. 18, 2010.

"When you have two players like Dwyane and LeBron, then you have a dynamic that anything can happen on any given night, on both ends of the court," Riley said. "When you add Chris Bosh to the equation, a guy now on the inside that also can stretch the floor with enough shooting coming off the bench and enough size and enough quickness, you have the elements of putting together a very complete team."

Of course, the Heat didn't stop there.

Udonis Haslem - the guy who James and Wade both thought would be absolutely crucial - took $14 million less to stay. Mike Miller was the next target and once he heard Haslem, his old teammate at Florida was aboard, his mind was made up. Juwan Howard and Zydrunas Ilgauskas followed for veteran leadership. James Jones and Carlos Arroyo were wanted for continuity. Dexter Pittman and Da'Sean Butler were targeted for the future.

"We know what we're playing for," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Everything's changing. Even for Wade, who's missed virtually the entire preseason with a hamstring injury.

He won't be called upon to score 30 points all the time for the Heat to have their best chance of winning. He might not see double-teams constantly. He might not even have the ball at the end of close games.

"When they gave me the ball and told me to make every play, I tried to do that," Wade said. "So whatever role that coach Spo puts out there for each of us, especially for me, I'm going to try to be the best at that role I could possibly be and hopefully that's enough."

There's even more irony that this title chase will begin in Boston.

After all, the 2010-11 Heat are basically trying to be the 2007-08 Celtics - a group of superstars that, together, became a super team.

"They were able to win a championship in their first year together," Wade said. "And they came into a team that wasn't, at the time, as complete as this team is, but they all made sacrifices. They were the individual leaders of their team. And it worked, so, of course, you have to take from the history of the game, and put it within your team, but put your own twist on it."

James has been asked the question so many times now, he's got the answer pared down to one word. His expectations for his first season with the Heat couldn't be more simple.

"Win," he said.

That's the only question that matters. So the others - Can James average a triple-double? Can the Heat eclipse Chicago's 72-win record? Can this team become one for the ages? - all seem irrelevant to the Heat at this point.

Especially so in James' case.

This week, James encouraged his "haters" to keep bashing him on Twitter, and he got a slew of negative responses, many of them racially charged. James said he wasn't bothered. Sometimes, he said, he needs to be reminded of what's going to fuel him on this title pursuit.

"It doesn't affect me at all," James said. "You have that throughout life, no matter who you are. There's always people doubting you and doubting what you can do.

"For me, I have enough motivation," he added, "but I can always use a little more."

Second series of All Schools cross country tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Athletics will have the second series of races in the 2010 All Schools Cross Country Championship tomorrow at the CPA Field.

Tomorrow's races will feature students in the U8, U10, U12, U14, and U18 age groups. Registration starts at 3:30pm, while races will begin at 4pm.

No entrance fees will be charged during the series and NMA will be giving trophies and medals to the top individual finishers/schools in various age groups.

There will be three series of cross country races this month and the event will conclude with the 2010 All Schools Cross Country Championship on Nov. 13. The third series is set for Oct. 20. All qualifiers will be held at the CPA Field, while venue for the finale races will be announced later.

To qualify for the championship, student-athletes must join at least one series.

For more information, contact NMA developmental coach Elias Rangamar at eli_rang@yahoo.com

MANTA

From Page 36

ter Kevin Villagomez drove them home with a 2RBI single. Nokkie Saralu then knocked in Villagomez for the lead, 3-2.

David Hosono drew a walk for MHS to start the second and David Muna came up next and singled him in. Then Franklin Camacho reached off a fielder's choice and Blas brought him to the plate with a single to reclaim the lead for MHS, 4-3.

The Mantas sat down the next two batters, but suffered three quick strikeouts in the bottom half and stranded a runner on their turn.

MHS went 1-2-3 to start the third and SHS took the lead, 5-4, in the bottom half off two doubles and a single. Saralu and Ian Rogolifoi touched the plate for the Mantas in a slugfest.

Muna tied it back up at, 5-5, for MHS at the top of the fourth after reaching with a single and scoring off error, but in the bottom half, Duenas reached off an error for Southern and was singled in by Villagomez to make it 6-5.

MHS answered again and tied it at 6-6, in the top of the fifth. Carl Camacho hit a one-out single and MHS went on to load the bases. Camacho came home off a walk with the bases load, but Southern recovered from that point and left the rest of the Dolphins stranded.

Then in the bottom half, Southern's Rob Guerrero drew a walk and scored off an error to give the Rays a 7-6 lead with the sun on its way down. Due to a lack of light, the game had to be called off after only five innings.

Mantas 7, Dolphins 7

The rematch game between these two squads was yet another epic battle. MHS was visiting again, but this time was stuffed at the plate in the first inning.

Kalen busted a one out triple for Southern in the bottom half and scored after an RBI single from Rogolifoi.

In the top of the second, MHS started off with a double, but its next three batters were retired. In any rate, Southern went 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

In the top of the third, MHS pulled off a two-out, four-run rally off two walks, a hit, and two errors to take a 4-1 lead. The Dolphins' Hocog, Franklin Camacho, Ben Diaz, and Mike Tenorio all came around to the plate.

Then Southern's top of the order mounted a five-run answer off three hits, three walks, and an error in the bottom half to jump ahead, 6-4. Duenas, Kalen, Villagomez, Saralu and Kindu Muna all came in to score.

MHS answered again in the top of the fourth to take a one-run lead, 7-6, off a double, a single and two bean balls. David Ada, Blas, and Hocog all touched home.

Then Duenas led off the bottom of the fourth for Southern and two outs later, MHS walked three batters in a row to allow the Rays to tie the game. After the fourth inning, the game was called off early due to lack of light and part two of this rivalry went down in the books as a tie.

Ayuyus 4, Dolphins 0

Visiting Kagman led off the game with two walks, but could not manufacture a run in the first, however MHS also failed to bring a run in the bottom half.

Then Kagman took a 3-0 lead in the top of the second off three walks and a double. Ben Lizama, Dodet Feliciano, and Peter Lieto all came in to score, while MHS went 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

Then Frankie Lieto led off the third for KHS, stole second, and was driven home by Lizama to make it 4-0, Ayuyus. MHS went 1-2-3 again in the bottom half of the third.

KHS started the fourth at the top of the order and loaded the bases, but MHS recovered and left all runners stranded. MHS failed to create any offense in the bottom half aside from a two-out triple by Tenorio.

The score remained at 4-0, for the Ayuyus, as neither team scored in the fifth inning and the game was called off early due to lack of light.

Pacquiao 'still half good' in sparring

BOXING

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—Despite the disruptions in training, Freddie Roach is sticking to his prediction that Manny Pacquiao will stop Antonio Margarito when they clash for the vacant World Boxing Council super welterweight crown on Nov. 13 in Arlington, Texas.

And for his prophesy to come true, Roach intends to intensify Pacquiao's training in the next two weeks.

"It would be a big week for sparring," Roach told Manila-based sportswriters Monday. "This week and next week, it would be the toughest two weeks coming up."

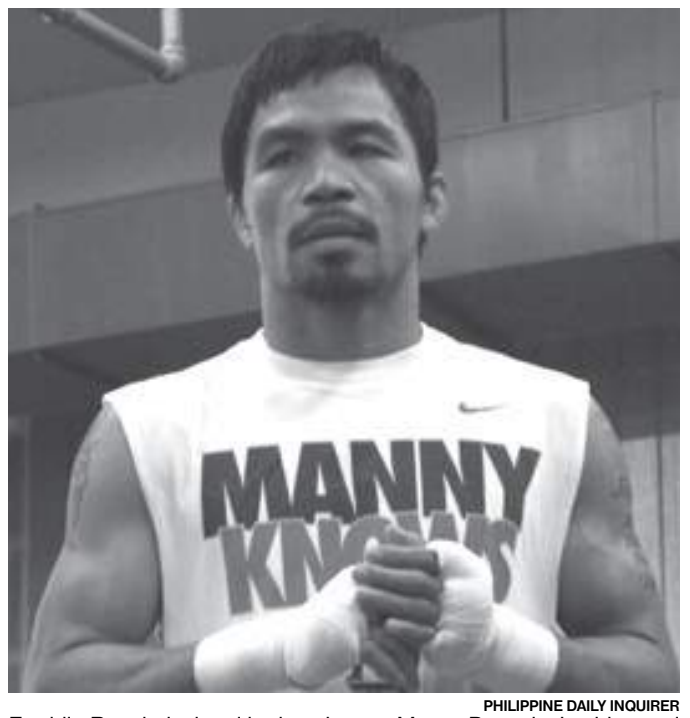
The trainer insisted he hasn't seen Pacquiao's old speed in sparring.

"He's already 100 percent with the mitts, but only 50 percent in sparring," Roach said.

The plan, according to the four-time Trainer of the Year, is for Pacquiao to go down to Manila after today's training and to spar on Thursday.

A workout has been scheduled for Friday, before Pacquiao spars again on Saturday afternoon. The team leaves that night for Los Angeles.

While Roach expressed satisfaction with Pacquiao's sparring partners, Glen Tapia and Michael Medina, the boxing Hall of Famer said more sparmates with the same fighting style as Margarito will be available once they settle down at his Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Freddie Roach insisted he hasn't seen Manny Pacquiao's old speed in sparring. Pacquiao will face Antonio Margarito for the vacant World Boxing Council super welterweight crown on Nov. 13 in Arlington, Texas.

Roach said waiting in the wings are Peter "Kid Chocolate" Quillin, the 6-foot-1 New Yorker who is unbeaten in 20 fights (15 by knockouts), and Vanes Martirosyan (28-0 with 17KOs).

"We need a little more focus, but I think, overall, we're doing okay," said Roach.

Four weeks into training camp, Pacquiao has sparred for 36 rounds, and Roach has scheduled some 60 rounds more in the next fortnight before tapering off.

Though they started a bit late, compared to Pacquiao's preparations against Miguel Cotto and Joshua Clottey, Roach believes his prized ward has been consistent.

"We have good and bad days, but more good than bad lately, so it's getting better and better," said Roach, citing Pacquiao's solid workout before the media at Shae Up gym here the other day.

Aware of reports that Margarito is training and sparring like an animal in Oxnard, California, Roach said he expects the fighter nicknamed "Tijuana Tornado" to spar for about 170 rounds.

Roach has lowered Pacquiao's target to between 100 and 110 of sparring rounds since the seven-time, seven-division world champion "already knows what to do."

Pacquiao's training, occasionally disrupted by the Sarangani representative's commitments and by a bout with colds, hit another snag last Tuesday after heavy rains brought by Typhoon Juan made it impossible for him to do roadwork. He slept up to 10 a.m., then ate brunch, according to Filipino trainer Nonoy Neri.

Well-rested, Pacquiao oozed with energy as he went through 10 rounds of sparring with Amir Khan, Tapia, and Medina. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

SIS

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Palms regained its bearings and grabbed the driver's seat. Whispering Palms did a great job hustling for the ball and finding the unguarded spots to move in front, while Joyner slowed down, allowing the Navy Hill team to force a deciding third set. Whispering Palms closed out the second set, 25-18, after Danny Auther chased the low ball near the right sideline and successfully returned it with the leather dropping close to the net and a Saipan Community player coming a few steps slower to hit it.

In the third set, Joyner scored the first point of the game off a kill. From there it was a nip-and-tuck match until Saipan Community's much taller players stepped up in the latter portion of the deciding set to lift the Tsunamis to a 15-11 triumph.

Incidentally, it was also Joyner who posted the last point in the third set. Whispering Palms served after scoring two more points and cutting the lead to three, 11-14. Lucy Park's service crossed the net and Joyner went after it, faking off a kill and instead going for a soft tap. The ploy caught Whispering Palms defenders napping and Auther's last ditch effort went to naught, as the ball was already falling down when he dove for it.

Saipan Community will dispute the junior varsity title against SIS today after the third place game between Whispering Palms and MBA.

STAAL

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and 31), while the last two series will take place in Moscow, Russia (Nov. 2 and 3), and Stockholm, Sweden (Nov. 6 and 7).

Kimura posts record in 50m backstroke

Meanwhile, Kensuke Kimura's 50m backstroke time made in a local tournament early this month is now officially counted in the CNMI record books.

Three members of the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation voted to consider Kimura's 32.44 seconds as a record in the boys' 13 to 14 age group. There is no existing CNMI mark in this event before Kimura recorded his feat on Oct. 2.

QUOTE

From Page 36

like you guys went away from that." O'Neal quipped, "Yeah. The story of my life, buddy."

Asked to comment after his Miami Heat had their 14 game winning streak broken, he replied, "I'll take 14 out of 15 any day of the week, any week of the month, any month of the year, any year of the century. I don't know what comes after century."

While he may understand the triangle offense, he may not know math, "Our offense is like the Pythagorean Theorem. There is no answer."

Shaq who has never led the NBA in rebounding said, "The day I stopped worrying about stats is the day I started winning. Stats don't matter. I care about winning, not stats. If I score 0 points and we win I'm happy. If I score 50, 60 points, break the records, and we lose, I'm pissed off. 'Cause I knew I did something wrong." And "The stats win nothing. I'm still sexy. I'm still great."

Shaq likes to play with reporters. One time he was asked, "Let's just say that a snake bit your mom right here, right in the chest area. Would you be willing to suck the venom out to win the title?" Shaq answered, "No, but I would with your wife."

Proving that he knows there are 82 games in the regular season, he said, "If you go 72-11 and don't win (the championship), it doesn't mean anything. Actually it does. It means you've cheated and played an extra regular-season game."

Shaq and Kobe had a well-publicized off-the-court tiff. Shaq used an oxymoron to describe their relationship, "In the seven or eight years we were together, we were never together."

When asked how he may react if Kobe came down the lane at him, the burly center answered, "If you've got a Corvette that runs into a brick wall, you know what's going to happen. He's a Corvette. I'm a brick wall."

And then this classic: "Kobe always tried to be a hero. But you know, as the saying goes, a hero ain't nothing but a sandwich."

When it comes to quotes, Shaq is my hero. He's no chicken sandwich.

"Me having a beautiful wife and great family and friends around me, all the money I've got, all the things that I've got, a Ferrari that I just ripped the top off of and turned into a convertible, the rings I got, the two mansions on the water, a master's in criminal justice, I'm a cop, plus I look good. So me shooting 40 percent at the foul line is just God's way of saying that nobody's perfect. If I shot 90 percent from the line, it just wouldn't be right."

3 Saipan teams to test Andersen Bombers

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Nationals' Joe Tumaquip tries to dribble past IT&E's Brendon Talania during their game in the Budweiser caging last month. The Nationals and two other teams will play in exhibition games against the Andersen Bombers this weekend.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Andersen Air Force Base men's basketball team will be in town this weekend to compete against three Saipan squads in a Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands-organized series of exhibition games.

The Andersen Bombers will debut on Saipan soil tonight as they face the CNMI Nationals at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium. Game time is at 8pm.

The Nationals will be bannered by spitfire Pete Iguel and Dan Barcinas. Joining them are Peter Mendiola, James Lee, Gus Palacios, Keoni Chariton, Quincy Johnson, Jack Lizama, Jose Tumaquip, and Robert Naraja. Coaching them is Rufino Aguon.

The Nationals last played as a team in the Budweiser caging and won in the finals against IT&E. They also represented the Commonwealth to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau and unfortunately finished last in the seven-team competition.

The Andersen Bombers are a familiar figure in various leagues on Guam and will be using the exhibition matches to prepare for the Military Pacific Regional tournament season, which will start next month. The team is composed of several players who saw action in collegiate basketball in the mainland.

Next up for the Bombers is a selection of players from the Budweiser caging. Brothers Ed and Tony Diaz will anchor the team that will duel the visitors at 5pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Bombers will have their last game against a selection of Filipino players, who also suited up with teams that participated in the Budweiser league. The Marianas Wireless-sponsored selection will meet the Bombers at 11:30am, also at the MHS gym.

The Marianas Wireless squad is composed of Kae Bernardo, Wowie Abuel, Glenn Aquino, Darwin Barbo, Elmer Esdrelon, Bong Tamayo, Junar Guiab, Nat Banatasa, Leo Galarse, Edwin Santos, and Rex Yabut. Rusty Doronilla is the team's coach, while Marianas Wireless' Roy Ortizo is the squad's manager.

Stallions widen lead in Masters division

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Naughty Boyz of Sande's defeated Buddies' Bar & Grill's Fantastic, 12-3, during last week's SEDA Tuesday B-League games.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The TDI Black Stallions and Buddies Bar & Grill's Salbahe Brothers 2 kept the top spot in their respective divisions after last week's games in the 2010 Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

In Master's play, the Stallions are beginning to pull away with an impressive 132-55 record and 0.71 winning percentage. Sixteen games behind them are second placers Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Erap Snipers (116-71). Notables include a High-In of 160 by Leo Lindo of D'Pirates Bar & Grill's M-Destroyers and a High-Out of 151 by the Stallion's Jun Olita.

In the Tuesday B-League, Salbahe Bros. 2, with its 110-55 slate and a 0.6667 winning rate, clings to the top spot over Tijuana Mexican Restaurant's Mix-Blood Shooters by just one game, while DPBG's B-Destroyers (91-74) sit in third place. Notables include a 160 High-In by Mix-Blood's Angelo Hernaez and a 158 High-Out by the B-Destroyers' Ricky Cardinez.

MASTERS
M-Destroyers 9, Red Horse 8

Both teams won a pair of cricket matches before Red Horse swept both partners 501 games for the early lead, but the M-Destroyers answered back and took three of the four sniper matches. Then both teams won a wild cricket game and a pair of singles 301 matches as this back and forth game went all the way down to the final team 1001 Cherry match, where the M-Destroyers came out on top.

D'Companeros 9, Angry Dragons 8

Both teams won a pair of cricket matches, a game of partners 501, a pair of sniper matches, and a wild cricket game before the D'Companeros broke the ice and won three of the four singles 301 matches. The Angry Dragons saved face and took the final team 1001 Cherry match.

Bull Shooters 10, Erap Snipers 7

Both teams won a pair of cricket matches and a partners 501 game before the Bull Shooters won three of four snipers matches for the early advantage. Then after the Erap Snipers took both wild cricket games, the Bull Shooters won three singles 301 matches for the automatic victory and went on to add the final team 1001 Cherry match to their total.

Black Stallions13, Just 4 Fun 4

Black Stallions won three of the four cricket matches, both partners 501 games and three of the four sniper matches to build a commanding lead. The Stallions secured the automatic victory after sweeping both wild cricket games and added a pair of singles 301 matches and the final team 1001 cherry contest.

TUESDAY B
IDK 8, B-Destroyers 7

These sister teams went back and forth from the beginning as both squads started with a pair of singles 301 wins. Then IDK swept both partners wild cricket games, but the B-Destroyers answered back and took both partners 501 contests and three of the four cricket matches for a brief lead. With their backs against the wall, IDK held strong and swept both partners baseball games and the final team 1001 match for the comeback win.

Mix-Blood Shooters 10, McJudystar 5

Both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches and a wild cricket game before the Mix-Blood Shooters swept both partners 501 games. Then after both teams won a pair of cricket matches, the Mix-Blood Shooters swept both partners baseball games for the automatic win. They also took the final team 1001 match.

Salbahe Brothers-2 10, Samurais 5

Both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches before Salbahe Brothers 2 swept both wild cricket games, won a partners 501 game, and a pair of cricket matches. They clinched the automatic victory after sweeping both partners baseball games and also took the final team 1001 match.

Naughty Boyz 12, Fantastic 3

Both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches before Naughty Boyz swept both wild cricket games and partners 501 contests, and won three of four cricket matches for the automatic win. Then the Naughty Boyz added both partners baseball games and the final team 1001 match.

Team Manatee shares 10-day Japan bike trip

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Manatee members Steve Nutting and son Andy, John Jones and son Angelo, Mark Blackburn, and Jim Arenovski returned from a 425-kilometer, 10-day cycling trip around the rural island of Shikoku, Japan last week.

Shikoku is the smallest and least populous of the four main islands of Japan. It is the 50th largest island by area in the world.

The group started its trip on Oct. 5 on a flight from Saipan to Guam and then off to Osaka before boarding its final plane to Wakayana. From there the CNMI bikers caught a bus to Tokushima. In Tokushima, the group raced 5K to a ferry station and biked another 4K to their hotel after the two-hour boat ride.

Day 2 featured a 63K bike trek along a river toward Tsurugi Town where the team began it ascent up Mt. Tsurugi. The next day, the group mapped out another 63K leg up to the 4,500-foot summit of Mt. Tsurugi (22K) and then down to Kazurayabashi, home of the Vine Bridge. The temperature dropped significantly in the mountainous terrain so the group stopped for a hot lunch at the mountaintop before heading down into the first part of the Iya Valley.

Team Manatee headed 44K downhill on Day 4 to the Happy Raft Company on the Yoshino River. The first half of the leg featured exciting curvy roads along the cliff side and the group still made it to Happy Raft guesthouse, 600 feet. above the river, despite trekking the second part of that trip in rain.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Team Manatee pose for a picture in Tsurugi, Japan, during Day 2 of their 10-day bike trip.

The rain raised the water level of the river, which made the group's 20K raft ride an even wilder experience on Day 5.

On Day 6, Team Manatee bikers caught a train to the city of Kochi and then got back to their bikes for a 132K trek to a tiny city called Nishitosha. The group rode under starlight for the last two hours of the leg.

Then they took a train along the coast into the Shimanto River valley back to Kochi to visit Kochi Castle, one of the oldest castles in Japan, and ate lunch in the famous Sunday Street Market.

The next day the group rode 25K from Kochi to Uwajima and caught another train to Matusuyama. Then they took a short bike ride to the Dogo Onsen and back.

On Day 8, the team boarded a train to Imabari and biked 70K to Onomichi across the inland sea through numerous islands and over seven major bridges. Then they rode a train to Hiroshima before biking from the train station to their hotel.

Come Day 9, the group visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Museum and took a bullet train to Kobe before returning to Saipan the next day.

Steve Nutting organized the itinerary for the trip and mapped out the cycling legs. The Manatee bikers were completely on their own in Shikoku with no guides or support vehicles, however the residents they met along the journey were nice and obliging.

Youth baseball clinic resumes tomorrow

The Saipan Major League baseball will resume its youth baseball clinic this Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The clinic will rum from 9am until afternoon tomorrow and is open to 18-and-under baseball players.

The weekend clinic was halted for about two weeks due to government shutdown.

According to SML's Tony Rogolifo, the clinic offers opportunities for young ballplayers to improve their skills through a variety of drills. Batting drills such as the correct way of gripping the bat, plate coverage, the stride, swing pattern and hip turn will be covered along with base running drills, proper footwork for infielders/outfielders on grounders, double play coverage, cutoffs and relays, catchers drills, and pitchers drills.

"These are just some of the drills that will be taught and all interested players or coaches are invited to attend. The program will run through the month of October and hopefully November if the field is available. Players are asked to bring their baseball gear and come in their baseball attire," Rogolifoi said.

For more information, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

SIS vs SCS in jr. varsity finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School and Saipan Community School arranged their title duel in the junior varsity division of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League after recording contrasting wins in the semifinal round yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The SIS Geckos swept Marianas Baptist Academy in the first semis game, while the SCS Tsunamis survived Whispering Palms in the other Final Four pairing.

A 25-15 victory in the opening set gave SIS the needed momentum to close out a tough second set, 25-23. After two games in the playoffs, the Kim Peterson-coached Geckos have yet to drop a set. They won in the first round against Mt. Carmel School, 25-16, 25-23.

In the second semis game, Saipan Community this time played an extended match and withstood Whispering Palms' gallant stand to advance to the championship game.

The Tsunami, which swept their first round assignment against Calvary Christian Academy, 25-20, 25-14, slipped past Whispering Palms in the fiercely fought opening set, 25-23.

In the second set, SCS with the lanky Jehn Joyner playing strong in the net raced to a 4-0 lead before Whispering

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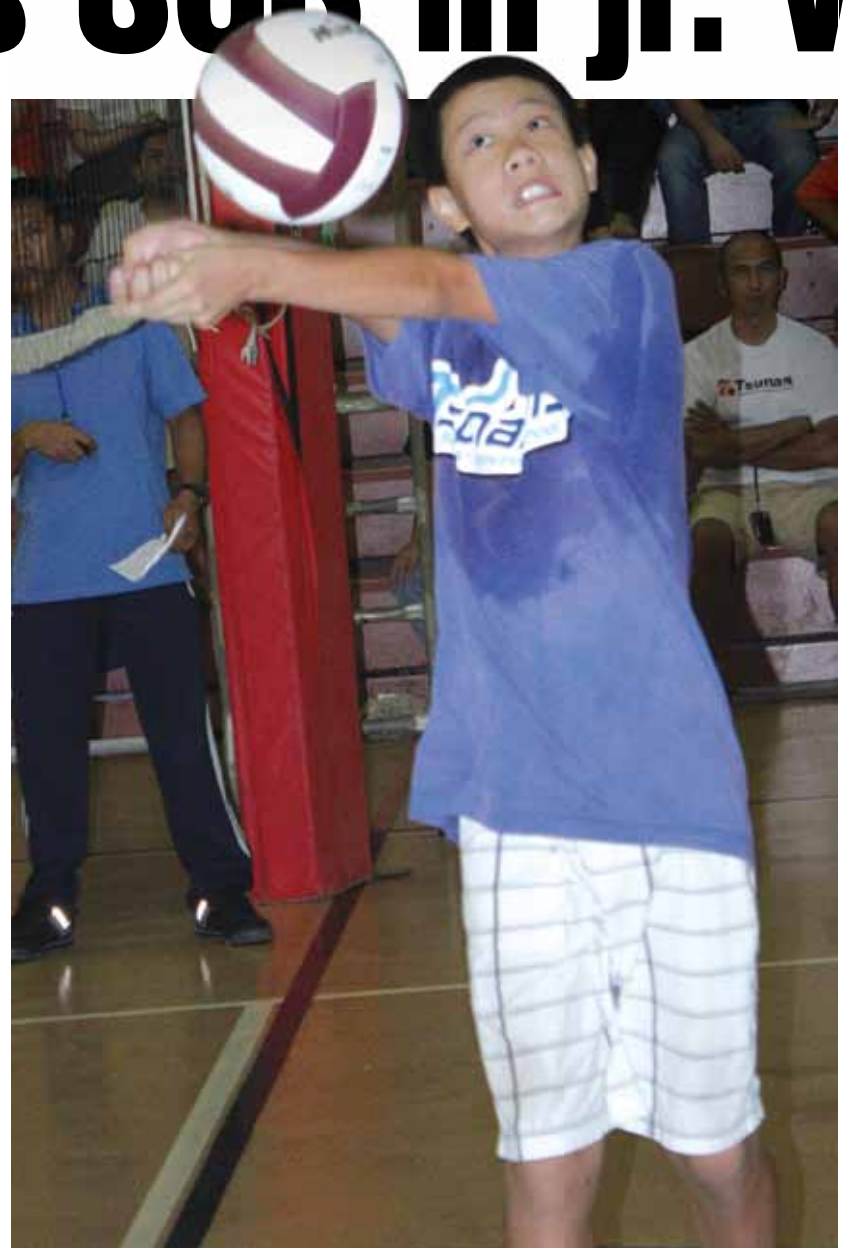

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Community School's William Fong returns to Whispering Palms during their semis game in the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Manta Rays lead in MISO baseball

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School holds the lead in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Baseball League, following its two victories in its first three games.

The Manta Rays were awarded the win by forfeit over Kagman High School last Oct. 14 The next day, Southern defeated Marianas High School, 7-6, before the Rays settled for a 7-7 tie against the Dolphins last Monday.

After a loss to Southern, Kagman broke into the win column via a 4-0 shutout victory over the Dolphins last Tuesday. The Dolphins remain winless in three games.

Manta Rays 7, Dolphins 6

In the first inning, Quinson Blas and Kyle Hocog drew one-out walks for visiting MHS and a fly out later, Carl Camacho cleared the bases with a double to break the ice, 2-0.

In the bottom, Southern's MacGarette Duenas and Lucio Kalen both drew leadoff walks and clean up bat-

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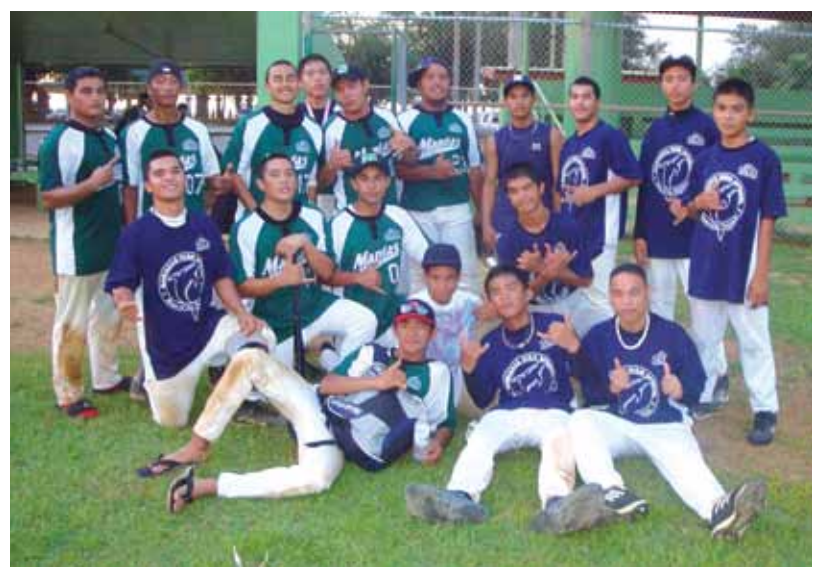

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School players pose for a photo after their 7-7 tie in last Monday's game in the 2010-2011 MISO Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kai Staal competed in the 2010 FINA/ARENA Swimming World Cup and timed in at 23.99 seconds in the 50m freestyle yesterday at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Pool in Japan.

Staal meets target in FINA World Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal accomplished his mission in the 2010 FINA/ARENA Swimming World Cup yesterday after posting an impressive time in the 50m freestyle swim.

Staal competed in the qualifying heats in the 50m freestyle at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Pool and submitted 23.99 seconds.

"We wanted him to finish the 50m freestyle race under 24 seconds and he did it. Tsunami Saipan is very proud and happy for Kai," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said.

The 23.99 seconds is faster than Staal's record of 25.03 second, but since his Japan time was made in a short course (25-meter pool), it can not be considered as a new CNMI mark. The CNMI only keeps record for long course (50-meter pool).

Staal owns three CNMI long course records in the 50m freestyle. His 25.03 seconds is a record both in the open division and 16 to 17 age group. In the 13 to 14 age group, Staal holds the record at 25.68 seconds.

His 23.99 second-mark in the tournament in Japan reestablished his claim to the CNMI's fastest sprint swimmer tag.

The Saipan International School student started his campaign in the FINA World Cup with a 31.27-second performance in the 50m breaststroke. Staal is the age group record holder (15 to 16) in the 50m breaststroke with his 31.90 seconds posted on July 28, 2009. Rezne Wong has the open 17 to 18 and open divisions records at 31.62 seconds.

Staal was the lone CNMI representative invited to the fourth leg of the FINA World Cup. The Japan tournament awards cash prizes to series winners and record holders. FINA World Cup's next stop will be Berlin, Germany (Oct. 30

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Quote machine

Shaquille O'Neal is back for his 19th NBA season, helping the Celtics, already the oldest team, get even older. Although he was unable to help LeBron and Cleveland get over the hump last season, he remains a force at least for short bursts. While we do not know if he can help the Celtics get their 18th banner, we do know he will provide us with memorable quotes. After his illustrious basketball career is over, he certainly could be a stand-up comedian.

One year when Shaq was with the Lakers and they didn't win the title, some people were clamoring to fire coach Phil Jackson. O'Neal quipped, "Come on, man. That's like being married to J-Lo, then dropping J-Lo for a girl that's 5-10, 480 pounds."

After a loss to the Pistons in the NBA Finals, a reporter said, "There was a certain part of the game when you were getting the ball down low and you were scoring every time, and then it seemed

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2